Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-081
Wednesday
27 April 1994

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-082 *28 April 1994*

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CIS Said Lacking Conditions for New Payment Union

MK2604094094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Mikhail Lantsman report in the "Financial" column: "CIS Bankers Want To Build a New Payment Union. European Colleagues Think This Is Hardly Feasible"]

[Text] On 23 and 24 April in the Bor hotel in the Moscow region an international banking conference was held which discussed problems of Russia's financial settlements with neighboring states. The aim of the conference was, based on the commercial banks' practical experience, to elaborate a new settlements system on the post-Soviet subcontinent. The conference was held on the initiative of the Russian Banks Association, the Council on Foreign and Defense Policy, the New Policy Center for Humanitarian Relations and Business Cooperation, and Mezhekonomsberbank.

By the admission of Vyacheslav Solovov, Russian Federation Central Bank deputy chairman, the actual disintegration of the ruble zone occurred on 1 July 1992 when Russia announced that all of its ruble accounts beyond its borders would not be recognized. This meant that Russia effectively introduced its own currency in noncash circulation. The process was completed exactly a year later when Russia finally privatized the "Soviet" currency and stopped providing technical credits to the republics to finance commodity exchanges. Experiencing an acute ruble shortage, those republics that were unprepared for that had to launch their national currencies. Yet it would be unfair to blame Russia for the disintegration. The preservation of the old regime, with the administration test site [administrativnyy polygon] turning into a semblance of international economic space, would have made Russia a gratuitous donor.

After the bulk of interstate settlements moved from national to commercial banks, new settlement systems emerged spontaneously, adapted to the mixed post-Soviet economy. From primitive communal barter to attempts to create a foreign exchange market. According to the Russian Federation Central Bank, in 1993 the volume of financial settlements processed by Russia's commercial banks was triple those that went via the Central Bank. Commercial banks, operating with the CIS countries' "ersatz currencies," quote them at their own risk. There are practically no official quotations. The exchange rates of "ersatz currencies" published by the Central Bank are not recommended to commercial banks for conducting settlement operations.

According to Russian Banks Association President Sergey Yegorov, the new payment system should be built on the experience acquired by commercial banks. All scenarios proposed by the forum participants in essence boiled down to two variants: creating a Eurasian currency system, using the experience of Western Europe; or creating a new-type ruble zone, whose prototype could be the integration of the monetary systems of Russia and Belorussia [Belarus]. Both options were presented in a concept elaborated by Mezhekonomsberbank's expert council. The first variant envisions a lengthy preparatory period and a high extent of coordination at intergovernment level, which makes its execution rather problematic. The second presupposes a single emission center—the Russian Central Bank, which will hardly be acceptable to the majority of CIS republics.

Meanwhile, according to expert appraisals by the Center for European Political Studies, the former USSR is not threatened either with the repetition of the West European experience or the creation of a new-type ruble zone. According to Western analysts, the CIS countries do not constitute an "optimal currency space." First of all, the former USSR republics lack two substantial elements: compatibility of economic structure and consensus on the need for a common economic policy. The greater part of trade links created in the past, analysts believe, will not hold for more than five years. Currently Russia's trade with its immediate neighbors constitutes one-third of its trade with the rest of the world.

CIS News Agencies Discuss Cooperation

LD2704135494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1233 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, April 27 (TASS)—Creative and technological interaction in the unified information area of the CIS for objective and comprehensive coverage of events are discussed today by chiefs and technical directors of a number of news agencies of member-countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. They gathered in ITAR-TASS for a two-day conference that has become traditional.

Taking part in the meeting are delegations of state agencies of Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

"The task of preserving and developing the unified information expanse is equally important for all republics of the former USSR in conditions of the establishment of their political and economic independence", Vitaliy Ignatenko, ITAR-TASS director-general, said inaugurating the conference. "The processes taking place in Russia are largely adequate to what happens in former union republics. We have common problems. One of them is preserving positions in the information market. It is no secret that a large number of foreign correspondents well-equipped technologically, works in CIS countries. They supply information to users in CIS countries".

Ignatenko invited representatives of news agencies of CIS countries to participate more actively in cooperation, specifically, in fuller joint use of the technical potential of ITAR-TASS.

Later the participants in the conference began debating prospects and potentials of expanding their ties and interaction in the unified information market. Participants in the conference are to meet chairman of the Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS Vladimir Shumeyko on Thursday.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 27 Apr

LD2704071394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0627 GMT 27 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 27 (ITAR-TASS)—Today's NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper examines two versions of a treaty on public accord which members of the lower house now compare. One of them is planned to be signed in the Kremlin on Thursday.

"What has changed in the version (of the treaty—eds.) Of April 26 as compared with the text of April 24 and the more so of April 20?" the newspaper asks.

"While the sides took obligations to refrain from demands to make amendments to the constitution in the version of April 20, which destabilise the situation in society, such explicitness disappeared in the document of April 24: the sides decided that amendments to the constitution can be made but only those which promote stabilisation.

"Explicitness again appeared in the draft of April 26 but this time with the sign plus: amendments stabilising the situation must be made. True, as in previous cases, nothing is said who will reject amendments. Nothing was changed in the thesis either that the sides take obligations not to initiate propaganda campaigns for early elections of federal bodies of power."

Continuing this theme, the NOVAYA EZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA daily notes: "In our opinion, the signing of a treaty on social accord will be the most important event of this month. It is difficult to overestimate this event, irrespective of its results.

"Realisation (any) and failure are equally important. We believe that the treaty is not a scrap of paper and not a formal act in the train of many such events which will pass without notice.

"We regard this event in a broader context: in the context of actions which preceded the signing of the treaty and which will follow.

The treaty, at the same time, is a symbol, a seal which will authorise processes taking place now at the top echelons of power and a lever helping to speed up these processes without, although, completing them."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that it learnt from reliable sources that another reorganisation of the Russian cabinet's office is brewing at the white house. It will take place in the near future.

"According to new draft regulations, divisions of the government's office will be liquidated, and their functions will be assumed by newly-formed departments. Naturally, expected personnel reshuffling is the most burning question now.

"According to available information, the office head Vladimir Kvasov will be replaced by Valeriy Katukov who is now chief of the organisational division."

The ROSSIISKIYE VESTI newspaper comments on the Russian-Ukrainian talks in Sevastopol. "Apart from a diplomatic failure of the talks on the Black Sea Fleet between the Russian and Ukrainian defence ministers, the visit by General Pavel Grachev to Sevastopol brought him personal annoyance," the newspaper holds.

Following the failure of the talks, Ministers Grachev and Vitaliy Radetskyy exchanged recriminations in public: General Radetskyy was very caustic with respect to Grachev, speaking over Ukrainian television.

In turn, General Grachev, standing on the gangway of his "ministerial" plane before departure, expressed his opinion to Ukrainian officers, who were seeing him off, about the reception of the Russian delegation on Ukrainian soil.

The essence of Grachev's speech was that Ukraine is of course is a young state, but this does not justify how it receives foreign delegations (he meant the Russian military delegation).

The minister mentioned in passing that the Ukrainian side has no notion about diplomatic etiquette and that he would not be surprised if the russian delegation would have been arrested right at the airport instead of flying to moscow and he defence minister would have been handcuffed.

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper features an interview with chairman of the state committee for the munitions industry Viktor Glukhikh who stresses: "We are extremely concerned over the situation with the state defence order for 1994.

"Its reduction by 80 per cent will cause, to put it mildly, very serious difficulties with the development and production of promising systems of weapons. It will deprive 150,000 people in the munitions industry of their jobs as well as over 100,000 workers in the industry of ammunition and special chemistry."

The PRAVDA newspaper carries an interview with ex-premier of the former Soviet Union Nikolay Ryzhkov, which is entitled "I'm from the party whose name is Russia".

Ryzhkov writes: "To serve in the government now means to come under suspicion from honest people of complicity in corruption. The present executive power is very corrupt. Besides, it is against people, against the country. I don't see my place in it."

Under the headline "Master of Intelligence Partially Reveals Secrets", the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper started publishing reminiscences by Pavel Sudoplatov, one of the former heads of Soviet intelligence during Stalin's rule.

"The brilliant and tragic fate of this man," the newspaper notes, "reflects all vicissitudes of time at which he happened to live."

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 28 Apr

LD2804061394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0555 GMT 28 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 28 (ITAR-TASS)—Today's Moscow newspapers concentrate on a response to the murder of Andrey Aizderdzis, member of the Russian parliament's lower chamber, and on the signing of a treaty on social accord which will take place in the Kremlin on Thursday.

No matter what were the reasons for the murder, the ROSSIISKIYE VESTI newspaper notes, "its very fact committed a day before the signing of a memorandum on civic accord and five days before mass May demonstrations, can provoke a political crisis".

Referring to the opinion of most Russian legislators, the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper states that "it is chaos in the country and Interior Ministry organs cannot do anything with it. The underworld executes its sentences every day. Nothing can stop it even the legislator's mandate".

The KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDa newspaper reports the murder under the headline "Russian legislators have not been killed since 1917". Quoting statements by "some militia officers", the newspaper concludes: "Aizderdzis was evidently killed, because the WHO IS WHO newspaper, which he patronised, printed the list of major criminals. It is out of question that he was killed for political reasons".

The TRUD newspaper devotes several materials to this event under the general headline "a shot at legislator also hit minister (eds: Interior Minister Viktor Yerin)".

The newspaper reminds that the lower chamber demanded that President Boris Yeltsin release the minister of his duties and "use to the full his constitutional powers to establish law and order immediately". TRUD quotes a statement by the Russian leader that assassins will be found.

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper singles out information about this tragedy, noting that the assassination of the lawmaker infuriated the lower house so much that it "almost forbade its speaker (eds: Ivan Rybkin) to sign a treaty on civil accord".

At the same time, it expresses doubts that Aizderdzis was killed because of the above-mentioned publication in the WHO IS WHO newspaper.

The SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper runs an article devoted to Aizderdzis, noting: "Every of his speeches before audiences resembled vigorous attacks". The newspaper claims that Aizderdzis exposed families of those who gave orders to shoot at innocent people during the tragic October days. "He said everywhere that he was a participant in the parliament building defence, a communist."

ROSSIISKIYE VESTI examines another leading theme of the press—the signing of a treaty on social accord—from a position of "will the Russian nation obtain a creative perspective?". Under the above headline, the newspaper prints several materials devoted to this event.

"Russia is ready to obtain, at long last, a document of nation- wide importance, without a precedent in national history," says one of the articles. It is high time to understand that the Russian nation, all its parties, movements and segments of population, all its generations badly need peaceful continuity.

"Sure, recent antagonists cannot agree with each other in everything. But this is exactly the case when there cannot and should not be victors and vanquished."

The PRAVDA newspaper believes that the treaty will be signed by representatives of the so-called new bourgeoisie. "Nearly all left-wing parties" will be against. The newspaper claims that "there are grounds to believe that the signing of 'the agreement' will eventually turn either into a farce or a tragedy."

TRUD publishes with some abbreviations a chapter from the book "The President's Journal" by Boris Yeltsin. It is named "a bleak streak". Describing the tragic events in moscow on October 3-4, 1993, the author notes that "that was struggle against the president, struggle for power... That was struggle for changing the state foundations".

The NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper features an interview with Viktor Samoilov, managing director of Rosvooruzhenie firm, a state company on export and import of arms and combat materiel.

He writes that the company does not intend to surrender its position in competition struggle. At the same time, it will be guided, in future too, by the following motto: "Cooperation in Trust". "We Are Open for Partnership".

Grachev, Perry Discuss Joint Military Exercises

PM2704193994 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 3

[ITAR-TASS report: "Totskiy Training Ground"]

[Text] Vyacheslav Kostikov, the Russian Federation president's press secretary, has unexpectedly announced that President B.N. Yeltsin understands the doubts expressed in the State Duma regarding the advisability of holding joint Russian-U.S. command and staff exercises at the Totskiy training ground in Orenburg Oblast. Having studied a pertinent submission from members of the State Duma, the opinions of deputies and military experts, and the assessments of the opposition, the president has instructed the Ministry of Defense to hold additional consultations with the U.S. side regarding this issue and to reconsider the matter with due regard for both the stance of the Russian lawmakers and comments made in this connection by the general public.

But meanwhile....

Pentagon Pressure

U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry has called Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and urged him to make efforts to ensure that the joint Russian-U.S. command and staff exercises planned earlier by Moscow and Washington go ahead in Orenburg Oblast This was announced by U.S. Department of Defense spokesman Kathleen de Laski, commenting on a report from the Russian president's press service passed to the Pentagon by ITAR-TASS's Washington desk regarding the possible cancellation of the joint exercises.

The Russian defense minister noted the concern expressed by W. Perry regarding the exercises and promised to relay this concern to the government, deLaski said. As far as we know, the Russian Government has not yet made a final decision on the exercises, which are slated for July this year. In the opinion of the U.S. Government, these exercises will represent a very good start to broadening contacts between the two states' armed forces. We naturally hope that the plans to hold them will materialize.

The cancellation of the joint Russian-U.S. military exercises at the Totskiy training ground near Orenburg "would be a blow to U.S. efforts to develop cooperation with Russia," THE WASHINGTON POST writes.

According to Pentagon spokesman David [as published] Boxx, U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry regards the joint exercises as "an important symbolic first step toward cooperation between the military departments of Russia and the United States."

Citing a high-level representative of the U.S. Defense Department, the newspaper indicates that "the issue of holding the joint exercises, and also Russia's participation in the Partnership for Peace program, will be discussed next week during a visit to Moscow by a high-level delegation of Pentagon representatives who are traveling to Russia for planned consultations with the Russian side on a wide range of problems associated with ensuring security."

Russian-U.S. Joint Exercises Set for 4-14 Jul

LD2604221394 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1600 GMT 26 Apr 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] The press center of the Volga Military District has announced that in the Sorskiy garrison of the district there was a working meeting of the officers of the peacekeeping forces of Russia and the United States.

For three days, experts from the staffs of the Russian 27th Motorized Infantry Division and the 3d Infantry Division of the United States completed work on the plan for the joint command-staff exercise of the peacekeeping forces to be held from 4 to 14 July. Summing up the results of the working meeting, Major-General Anatoliy Sidyagin, head of the exercises on the Russian side, highly appraised the level of professional training of the Russian and American peacekeepers.

Yeltsin Recommends Talks on Joint Exercises

LD2604113794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1124 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—Boris Yeltsin regards "with understanding" the doubts expressed in the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, about the advisability of the first-ever Russian-U.S. staff exercises which were planned to be held in the Orenburg region.

The president recommended that the Defence Ministry hold additional consultations with the U.S. side and consider the matter again "with due regard for both the stance of the Russian lawmakers and comments made in this connection by the general public," the presidential press service announced.

Aide on Reconsideration of Exercises

LD2704185894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1847 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS—Boris Yeltsin's decision to look into the problem of the expediency of Russo-US military exercises planned to be conducted in the Orenburg region might negatively affect the relations between the two countries, said presidential aide for issues of national security, Yuriy Baturin, in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday. "However, Americans are

sensible enough, they know how talks should be conducted and it is possible to come to terms with them on all positions," Baturin said.

He said that Yeltsin's attitude to the problem was influenced by numerous requests made by deputies of the State Duma to look into the matter and, for the last time, such a request was made by the Duma council. The president received protests from the Orenburg region, where the exercises were scheduled to take place. As a result, Yeltsin decided to look into the matter again, Baturin said.

Asked about unjustified expenditures in connection with preparations for the exercises, Baturin said that the "involvement of military units had not been envisaged. There were plans that the exercises would be held by a limited number of Russian and U.S. officers and generals with the help of maps and computers, Baturin said. In his opinion, the material cost of the exercises, unlike the political cost, is not big at all.

Kostikov Clarifies Position on Exercises

LD2804143494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0840 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr—Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the Russian president, has assessed Boris Yeltsin's decision to heed the State Duma's view on joint Russian-U.S. exercises and the proposal to hold additional consultations on this issue between the Russian and U.S. military departments as a normal and specific fact of interaction with other democratic institutions of power.

This step, he said in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS today, was dictated not by Boris Yeltsin's concessions to "certain circles," and even less by any colder attitude on the part of the Russian leadership to the United States, as some analysts maintain, but by the striving to adopt such foreign and domestic political decisions as would promote the strengthening of civic accord.

"No one voices any surprise," Vyacheslav Kostikov remarked, "when U.S. presidents take into account the Congress' opinion or the views of influential politicians before adopting this or that decision. This is an absolutely normal procedure of democratic interaction, and the fact that it is making way for itself in Russia, replacing the voluntarist decisions of the past, is a positive phenomenon showing a more mature and democratic decision-making process in conditions of pluralism."

In Vyacheslav Kostikov's view, one can admit that the decisions taken through such a procedure can be more or less successful or timely. However, he stressed, "it is beyond doubt that they are a norm of the democratic process with all the ensuing positive and negative consequences."

As is known, the agreement on holding joint Russian-U.S. exercises at the Totsk testing range in Orenburg oblast in July was reached by the Russian and U.S. foreign ministers. The exercise was to practise interaction between peacekeeping subunits of the two military departments.

Shumeyko Favors Joint Exercises

LD2804133194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1208 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr—If the Russian military needs to hold tactical exercises in the interests of boosting the combat readiness of the troops, it should be allowed to hold them. Politicians should react calmly to what the military do in the interests of enhancing combat training. This is the opinion of Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko.

Today in an exclusive interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent he stressed that every politician should strive to enhance the army's combat readiness and for this every means is important, including the possibility of cooperating with another army. That is why he believes it is expedient to hold Russian-U.S. command and staff exercises at the Totsk training ground in Orenburg oblast.

Answering to those opposing the exercises, who are indignant that "Yankee feet should step" on Russian soil, Vladimir Shumeyko said that in this case "not an aggressor, but an ally is stepping on our soil."

Grachev, Perry Favor Summit on Bosnia

LD2604191194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and U.S. Defense secretary William Perry approved of the idea of holding a meeting between the leaders of Russia, the U.S., NATO and other parties concerned with the settlement of the crisis in Bosnia during their telephone conversation today. The conversation was initiated by the U.S.

An aide of the Russian Defense Minister, Yelena Agapova, told Interfax that Grachev had confirmed his position on NATO air attacks against the Serb positions in Gorazde considering them unreasonable. Grachev stressed that the civilian population would suffer the most during such actions.

Grachev put forward several proposals concerning a settlement in Bosnia. In particular, he considered it necessary to refrain from any more air attacks since this

could make the conflict uncontrollable and lead to a deterioration in the situation.

Grachev proposed to strengthen the UN peacekeeping contingency in Gorazde and to take measures in order to prevent arms deliveries to the conflicting parties. He emphasized that the population must be regularly provided with humanitarian aid.

Unilateral Decisions on Bosnia Said Counterproductive

LD2604143394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1317 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Apr—Urgent measures are needed to establish a clearcut definition of the borders and characteristics of the UN-declared safe areas in Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to bring about their demilitarization. This point of view was expressed at a briefing today by Grigoriy Karasin, director of the information and press department of the Russian Foreign Ministry. Such measures, he stressed, can only be drafted within the framework of the UN Security Council. "Unilateral decisions in this respect will be counterproductive," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman stated.

In his view, the normalization of the situation around Gorazde creates conditions for the resumption of efforts to achieve a political settlement of the Bosnian problem. As G. Karasin pointed out, this was the purpose of the contacts made by Vitaliy Churkin, Russia's deputy foreign minister, in London, today's meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and other Russian diplomatic moves toward the implementation of the Russian president's initiative.

According to the Russian diplomat, it was noted at yesterday's consultative meeting of the UN Security Council that "the Muslims were responsible for a provocation in the Gorazde area, but the Serbs did not respond to it." In this connection Russia again called on the UN leadership and the countries involved in the Bosnian settlement process to take all measures necessary to prevent provocations.

Kozyrev Leaves for Geneva Talks on Bosnia

LD2604130594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1257 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS— Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left for Geneva today to hold negotiations with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The working meeting is expected to focus on Bosnian settlement, including the initiative of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to hold a summit conference on the issue with participation of Russia, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations.

This is the first meeting of Kozyrev and Christopher since the beginning of combat operations near Gorazde in late March and the use of NATO aviation against Bosnian Serbs.

Meets With Christopher

LD2604183594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1825 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva April 26 TASS—"The Bosnian crisis may be settled only through political way," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told a press conference on Tuesday.

He arrived in Geneva to hold a working meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The work on the settlement of the Bosnian crisis is holding in close contacts with partners, Kozyrev said. [sentence as received] He paid attention to "close and common approaches to political solutions." "All our work is the preparatory stage of the summit meeting which, according to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, should lead to the end of the conflict," Kozyrev noted.

Warren Christopher called the meeting "very fruitful" and paid attention to "common goals" of partners in Bosnia. He said that the two sides discussed "ways of the diplomatic solution of the conflict."

The United States recognised the importance of the creation of the group with participation of Russia, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations. The goal of the group is to gather conflicting sides at negotiating table, the U.S. secretary of state stressed.

Hopeful on Cooperation With West

LD2704063294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0237 GMT 27 Apr 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, 27 Apr—"We are not starting from scratch; a very good foundation already exists. Figuratively speaking, the field has been plowed and, in principle, it is possible to complete the Bosnian settlement process quickly enough," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev commented on the results of his working meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which took place on 26 April in Geneva.

The partnership is working, he told Russian journalists. Our Western colleagues are paying attention—though, perhaps, not immediately—to what we say to them.

They realize that it is useless to rely on military solutions, and here, in Geneva, the secretary of state emphasized the priority of the political process.

The Russian minister recalled that a contact group comprising Russia, United States, the European Union, and the United Nations had been set up and said it would become involved in shuttle diplomacy in the near future. At the same time, work at the level of ministers is also under way. The U.S. secretary of state held meetings with his counterparts from France and Britain on 25 April. "I have planned a meeting with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. I shall certainly be in touch with my British counterpart, Douglas Hurd, as well," Andrey Kozyrev said.

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Kozyrev, French Counterpart Discuss Bosnia Crisis

LD2704102394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1007 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva, April 27 (TASS)—The Bosnian peace process is the main subject of discussion at a current working meeting between Andrey Kozyrev and Alain Juppe here on Wednesday. The talks between the foreign ministers of Russia and France are being held in the United Nations office in Europe.

Russian diplomats are of the opinion that the positions of the two countries on the crisis in the former Yugoslavia are close on a number of important points. Moscow and Paris favour close cooperative action among Russia, the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations in the quest for a resolution of the crisis. It was in many respects due to this policy line that the four-country contact group was set up.

Agree To Expedite Talks

LD2704124294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1243 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Konstantin Pribytkov]

GENEVA, 27 Apr—Russia and France believe that a quadripartite meeting of ministers from the Russian Federation, the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations could be held in the very near future. This was announced here by Andrey Kozyrev and Alain Juppe after they had held an hour and a half of talks.

The opportunity for real cooperation is now better than ever before, the Russian minister told journalists. It is now extremely important to take this opportunity. The contact group which the four have set up to prepare a full report on the situation as regarding a Bosnian settlement could now be given one week rather than two. This would "avoid missing the chance for positive development" and make it possible to move on to ministerial talks on preparation of a summit meeting.

Speaking after his Russian counterpart, Juppe recalled that France supports the idea of a "summit" on Bosnia. He said that agreement could be reached quite quickly on the venue and date for the ministerial discussions. It is important that the contact group work correspondingly fast, he said.

Kozyrev Arrives in Bonn for Brief Visit

LD2804124494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1119 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn 28 April TASS—The Russian foreign minister, Andrey Kozyrev, arrived in Bonn for a flying visit on Thursday. He will have a consultative meeting with the federal minister of foreign affairs of federal Germany, Klaus Kinkel in the Petersberg governmental residence.

The key topics of the political consultations of the two foreign ministers will be questions pertaining to the preparation for a forthcoming official visit to Federal Germany by the president of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, scheduled for 11 May through 13 this year, as well as the search for the settlement of the Bosnian crisis.

Kozyrev Considers Talks Without Warring Sides

LD2804155394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1512 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Gennadiy Kulbitskiy]

[Text] Bonn, 28 Apr—"We need to see how events develop, but the foreign ministers of Russia, the United States, the European Union [EU], and the United Nations, could also discuss the Bosnian problem without the involvement of the conflicting parties." Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said this today at a news conference which was held after his consultative meeting with Germany's Federal Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. "It seems to me," he added, "that the important thing now is for Russia, the United States, the EU, and the UN to work out a coordinated approach."

This is necessary in order to make the conflicting parties in Bosnia aware that there is a reasonable alternative to war, and that they will not succeed in playing on differences between various states. "It should be clear to the conflicting sides in Bosnia that it is no longer possible for them to play the game in which one side or another puts forward deliberately unacceptable demands—for instance, as regards territory. That will not work," Kozyrev said.

Lukin Criticizes Russian, U.S. Policy on Balkans

LD2604175294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The latest developments in the Balkans in the region of Gorazde showed "the extreme unskillfulness of American diplomacy, its impulsiveness and high dependence on internal political changes," Chairman of the parliamentary committee for international relations Vladimir Lukin told a briefing in the State Duma.

Lukin also pointed to "the weakness and dissociation of the Russian policy both at the inter-ministerial level, and at the level of interaction between the Foreign Ministry and the presidential administration. Our diplomacy decided to exert pressure on the Serbs in a rougher way, using a personal factor," he noted.

In Lukin's opinion, this factor lies in "the halo of heroism around two successful trips by our leaders to the Balkans," created by the media, having in view Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his deputy, representative of the Russian president in former Yugoslavia Vitaliy Churkin. Such coverage of the trips, he said, led to the fact that "the mission of our leading diplomat turned out to be counter-productive."

Lukin pointed out that neither Russia, nor the West in isolation can handle the situation in the Balkans and they should act in coordination with each other.

Lukin said that upon return of the parliamentary delegation from former Yugoslavia, his committee intends to work out recommendations for the president on adjustment of the policy toward the Balkans. He noted that these recommendations "will also concern the gradual lifting of sanctions against republics of former Yugoslavia if they fulfil certain conditions."

Contact Group Goes to Bosnia To Work on Agreement

LD2704112994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1003 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Geneva, 27 Apr—An ITAR-TASS correspondent has been told by Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special envoy to former Yugoslavia, that a contact group set up by Russia, the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations to coordinate diplomatic efforts in the Bosnian settlement is being sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Russia is represented in the group by Foreign Ministry representative Aleksey Nikiforov.

The group is to meet the leaders of the warring sides to look into their readiness to conclude an agreement on an all-round cease-fire between the Bosnian Serbs and the Muslims. Churkin noted that the conclusion of the agreement would be an important step towards a comprehensive settlement.

For the time being though, despite a relatively "quiet" night after the expiration of the NATO deadline for pulling back heavy weapons from Gorazde, the diplomat believes that the situation remains difficult and requires unremitting attention.

Churkin To Remain Envoy 'Fer Immediate Future'

LD2804130194 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin will, for the immediate future, remain the president's special envoy to ex-Yugoslavia. This was confirmed today by an official spokesman of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Further on Churkin Remaining Envoy

LD2804144294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian Foreign Minister's Deputy Vitaliy Churkin will continue to serve as the president's special envoy in former Yugoslavia in the near future. This was reported in an interview with Interfax on Thursday by the Ministry's Spokesman Grigoriy Karasin.

He recalled that at their meeting on Bosnia in London on Tuesday [26 April], experts from Russia, US, EU, and UN had decided to set up a contact group for work with the conflicting parties. "This tallies with the plan suggested by Russia of further joint steps. This design provides for work at expert level to pave the way for a meeting between the foreign ministers of Russia, US,

and EC countries, and subsequently for a summit on a Bosnian settlement," Karasin said.

In his words, such a contact group is already at work. Russia is represented in it by the First Deputy Director of the Foreign Ministry's European Department Alexey Nikiforov, the United States by the President's Special Envoy Charles Redman. Other participants in the contact will be represented at the same level.

According to Karasin, Nikiforov will take over from Churkin the bulk of technical work. Churkin will be called in only for crucial decisions, Karasin explained.

In the words of yet another senior Russian diplomat, Churkin, who is known as the "Moscow shuttle" abroad, will still be responsible for events in Yugoslavia at the Russian Foreign Ministry but will apparently scale down his trips abroad.

Churkin's Possible Removal Viewed

MK2804113094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 3

[Georgiy Bovt, Sergey Tsekhmistrenko report: "Andrey Kozyrev's European Tour. Vitaliy Churkin Retires From Bosnia Affairs?"]

[Excerpt] In yesterday's talks with Andrey Kozyrev, his French counterpart Allain Juppe backed the idea for a summit with Russia, the EC, the United Nations, and the United States taking part (this idea was approved in a telephone conversation the day before by Pavel Grachev and Pentagon chief William Perry). A conference of the heads of interested countries' Foreign Ministries is to get down to preparing the summit.

The ministers' conference, Kozyrev and Juppe thought, could discuss the report of the "contact group" which is starting talks with the Serbs and Muslims. In the meantime, Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special envoy, indicated yesterday that he was not going to play the leading role in this group (although it is made up of his "counterparts in the settlement"—for example, U.S. special envoy Charles Redman) and would only "from time to time" participate in its work. Churkin's place in the group will be taken by Aleksey Nikiforov, a diplomat expert in Balkan affairs. Time will tell whether this is really a quiet removal of Churkin from a Yugoslav settlement (in a sequel to the two-week-old story where he first sharply criticized a part of the Bosnian Serbs for "extremism," and then rumors of his certain "differences with Kozyrev" began to creep around Moscow). For the time being, Churkin will be busy preparing Russia's signing of the "Partnership for Peace" with NATO. Aleksey Nikiforov earlier worked in the USSR Embassy in Belgrade, then in the East European department of the Foreign Ministry, and took part in the early stages of the Geneva talks on ex-Yugoslavia. [passage omitted]

Two Russian Peacekeepers Taken Hostage in Sarajevo

LD2604192094 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Vyacheslav Grunskiy has told us that, last night Bosnian Muslims seized two Russian servicemen from the UN peacekeeping contingent in Bosnia at checkpoint No. 6 of the Russian battalion in Sarajevo, which is on the dividing line between the conflicting sides. They are Private Potapov and Sergeant Vlasov.

As the Bosnian side has breached the statutes on the peacekeeping forces, the commander of the Russian UN forces in Bosnia has sent a note of protest to the Bosnian military leadership. At present the Russian servicemen are effectively the prisoners of the Bosnian Muslims.

Detained Peacekeepers Released

LD2704204394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2025 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS—Two Russian servicemen belonging to the U.N. peace-keeping contingent were taken into captivity by Moslems in the area of Grybovice near Sarajevo last night. This is the zone of demarcation of the warring sides and an area where one of the check points of the Russian U.N. battalion is located, the independent television company NTV reported on Wednesday night.

Thanks to prompt measures taken by commanders of the Russian battalion, the Russian servicemen were not hurt, NTV said.

Duma Delegation Urges Lifting of FRY Sanctions

LD2704081894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0630 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade, 27 Apr—Our trip to the republics of former Yugoslavia has reinforced the view of all members of the delegation that the issue of revoking sanctions against the FRY should be raised in the Duma. We realize that our parliament is not the final level of authority, that this matter has to be settled at the United Nations and that its settlement will be bound up with many difficulties, but Russia is duty-bound to press for this. Our whole delegation, which represents the majority of parliamentary factions, is unanimous on that, Nikolay Bosborodov, deputy chairman of the defense committee and head of the parliamentary delegation of the Russian State Duma, said in an interview to the ITAR-TASS correspondent.

The issue of sanctions, he continued, is closely bound up with an overall political settlement of the conflict. The

Duma has already adopted a decision on holding hearings on this matter, and representatives of all the republics of former Yugoslavia are invited. Undoubtedly serious preparations need to be made for such hearings and many issues need to be worked through, but the discussion could represent very promising assistance in unravelling the Yugoslav knot.

The head of the Russian parliamentary delegation voiced his distress and surprise at recent statements made by various Russian diplomats during the delegation's visit. "We do not understand their consent to NATO ultimatums to the Bosnian Serbs. It is obvious that NATO's intervention in the Bosnian conflict can only exacerbate the ferocity of the warring sides and expand the war area, and that it threatens to draw Yugoslavia into the war. On this matter we support the stance of the Russian defense minister," the head of the Russian delegation said.

Moreover, Bosborodov said, when we were talking to the commander of the Russian blue helmets battalion and asked him what help was needed above all, the commander asked for one thing only: "for the Foreign Ministry not to change its stance every day."

Russian Platoon Airlifted to Gorazde

LD2604124294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] A Russian paratroopers platoon from among the UN peace-keeping force in the former Yugoslavia was airlifted on the night of April 24 from Sarajevo to the Gorazde enclave. It consists of 19 paratroopers, three armored personnel carriers, two Ural motor vehicles and a radio station. The statement was made to INTERFAX on Tuesday by the commander of the Russian Airborne Troops, General Yevgeny Podkolzin.

According to him, British General Michael Rose, the commander of the UN peace-keeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, asked for the redeployment of the Russian unit. The airlift of paratroopers was made to enforce the peace-keeping contingent in the area of Gorazde. Earlier other peace-keepers units, including a Ukrainian company, were deployed in the region.

Podkolzin believes that the airlift of Russian paratroopers will affect beneficially the situation in the region, as well as Bosnian Serb units. He also said that the Russian diplomacy will only benefit from the presence of Russian troops in Gorazde.

The commander said that the rotation of the Russian peace-keeping contingent in the former Yugoslavia will end on April 29. As many as 600, out of the 1500 Russian contingent, will be replaced by fresh forces.

Podkolsin said that most soldiers and sergeants who had served for six months in line with the contract, acquired cars in the former Yugoslavia. They received 6,000 dollars for their peace-keeping work and most have decided to return to Russia behind the wheel of their own car.

Police Mission in FRY Holds News Conference

LD2604210594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1552 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Andrey Kulikov for TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Apr—Today at a news conference at the Center for Public Relations of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs, those who returned from Zagreb on 25 April spoke about the work of the Russian police mission in Yugoslavia.

The news conference noted that the first group of Russian police observers, numbering 14 people, was sent to Yugoslavia in April 1992 at the request of UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. Russian militiamen were working as part of the UN police forces, who perform peace-keeping functions. The tasks of these forces include monitoring the observance of human rights by the local police and the distribution of humanitarian aid. The staff of the police forces also undertook the organization of exchanges of POWs.

The second group of militiamen went to Yugoslavia a year ago. Anatoliy Tsoglo, the commander of the Russian police contingent, informed a CRIME-PRESS correspondent that our militiamen were serving in all sectors of the UN police mission, including those in areas with an extremely exacerbated military situation, such as Sarajevo and Tuzla. According to Colonel (militia) Boris Rakitin, deputy commander of the contingent, the group of observers working in the area of Sarajevo airport, where there was practically no local police, had the hardest time. The Russian contingent was involved in the evacuation of sick and wounded from the area of Sarajevo.

According to Anatoliy Tsoglo, Russian militiamen enjoy high prestige both among the local population and among their colleagues from other countries. Twenty-six people from the staff of the mission (altogether it has 41 people) are occupying leading posts in the structure of the UN police forces.

The next group of Russian police observers is now getting ready to be dispatched to Yugoslavia.

Shumeyko, NATO Delegation Discuss Partnership

LD2704191994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1802 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] "There cannot be steady peace in Europe without Russia," the chairman of the North Atlantic Assembly, Loic Bouvard, said in Moscow Wednesday. A NATO

parliamentary delegation headed by Bouvard was received by Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko Wednesday.

According to Bouvard, Russian deputies' controversial attitude to Russia's joining the NATO Partnership for Peace program was mainly explained by the internal situation in the country rather than foreign policy matters.

At the same time, Shumeyko said that Russian politicians' speculation about and attitude to the subject were mainly caused by insufficient and incorrect information.

"In addition, this issue is psychologically difficult for citizens of Russia as until very recently the NATO alliance was enemy No.1 for many," Shumeyko was quoted as saying.

Nevertheless, "the issue is on the way to resolution," Shumeyko said.

NATO Delegation Visits Federation Council

LD2704163094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1510 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS—Chairman of the North Atlantic Assembly of the NATO Parliament, Loic Bouvard, said at a meeting with the Chairman of the Russian Federation [title as received], Vladimir Shumeyko, on Wednesday that lasting peace in Europe is impossible without Russia.

Bouvard pointed out that during his visit to Russia and meetings with Russian lawmakers he realised that the attitude of Russian parliamentarians to the Partnership for Peace Programme was not unequivocal. In his opinion, this can be accounted for by internal, rather than external political reasons. Bouvard pointed out that he was prepared to explain the situation in the NATO Parliament.

The speaker of the Federation Council believes that the attitude to this problem in Russia and, in particular, statements made by politicians depend on the availability of information. Shumeyko suggested that the lack of information about developments in Yugoslavia affected the attitude of the Russian people. Shumeyko pointed out that many people find the problem of joining the NATO programme difficult because only yesterday, NATO was Russia's adversary. "However, this problem is in the process of settlement," Shumeyko said.

Grachev Announces Azerbaijan Prepared To Cease Fire

LD2604190094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1811 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—Azerbaijan is prepared to cease fire in the zone of the conflict at midnight April 27 provided Armenia makes the same decision, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said after the talks with Rasul Guliyev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan, on Tuesday evening.

Pavel Grachev also told journalists that he would immediately inform the Armenian side of this decision and counted on mutual understanding.

According to the Russian defense minister, during the talks both sides also discussed some issues concerning putting under Russian control of the Gabelin radar station which has great importance for all Commonwealth countries. These issues will be resolved at the inter-governmental level, the minister stressed.

It was almost impossible to foresee such an outcome of the talks between the Russian defense minister and the head of the Azeri Parliament. After all, the talks began from Pavel Grachev's statement that the February 18 agreement on cease-fire in the zone of the Armenian-Azeri conflict, reached between defense minister of these two republics through the mediation of the Russian minister was, to put it mildly, ignored, and did not bring expected results.

At the same time, the minister said, Russia continues intermediary efforts offering its version of cessation of the armed conflict and transition to the elimination of its consequences. According to Pavel Grachev, this version was considered at the expert level at the end of March during a meeting in Moscow with the participation of representatives of the conflicting sides and, for the first time, the Minsk group of Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). The Russian defense minister also believes that this project corresponds to the current situation, takes into account the interests of both sides, and it is desirable that they consider it. "We think that this would allow to essentially advance in the settlement of the conflict," Pavel Grachev noted.

As for the problems of functioning of the mechanism for control over the implementation of the Russian initiatives, the minister said, both sides should establish joint headquarters.

Before the cease-fire in the zone of the conflict the minister proposes to check up controllability of all armed units, first of all stationed on the line of contact. Uncontrolled military units should be moved to the rear, forcibly disarmed and disbanded.

After the cessation of fire, combat operations and disengagement of forces, Pavel Grachev believes, it is necessary to create a mutual security zone. Joint headquarters, if they are set up, should establish control over both sides' actions and set up observation posts. Control over the withdrawal of forces will be carried out by observers from the Commonwealth countries and the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

According to Pavel Grachev, he proposed to the Azeri side to bring Russian troops to the line of contact and agreed that these must be military units not stationed in Armenia. The disengagement will be carried out stage-by-stage.

In accordance with the russian plan of the settlement of the conflict, Armenian armed units must liberate all earlier seized Azeri territories and return to Nagorno-Karabakh. If both sides agree this region of Azerbaijan will be controlled by Russian troops and international observers.

Pavel Grachev made great efforts to convince Rasul Guliyev and parliamentarians accompanying him that the Russian plan of the settlement of the problem is realistic, dispel their doubts about the appearance of a new wave of refugees after the withdrawal of the Azeri Army from the present positions, a confidential source told ITAR-TASS.

Grachev, Azerbaijan Speaker Discuss Cease-Fire

LD2604173994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] On the night of April 27 Azeri troops will cease their fire along the front line in Nagorno-Karabakh. The agreement was reached by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Chairman of the Azeri parliament Rasul Guliyev in Moscow on Tuesday.

After the meeting Grachev told journalists that he intends to file a similar request to the opposing side in the conflict in the near future. He expressed the hope that it might become an efficient step in the settlement of the Karabakh conflict.

Grachev also said that at the meeting with Guliyev the two sides agreed in principle on the problem of a missile attack warning station in Gabala. Grachev hopes that the governments of Russia and Azerbaijan will soon agree on the official status of the station as a Russian military base on Azeri territory. "That would serve the interests and security of Russia, Azerbaijan and other CIS countries," Grachev pointed out.

Shumeyko Urges Settlement

LD2704132194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1154 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, April 27 (TASS)—"We must first of all solve the problem of stopping hostilities in Nagorny Karabakh and then gradually settle all the other issues, linked with that conflict," Vladimir Shumeyko, speaker of the Council of the Federation, the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, said today during his meeting with chairman of the Azeri Supreme Soviet Rasul Guliyev.

Informing journalists on the meeting, head of the council's press centre Yuriy Algunov said that in Guliyev's opinion "nobody needed the continuation of the Karabakh conflict". He said that the war was lately receding, but it was a very slow process.

Informing the guest on the work of the upper chamber of the Russian parliament, Shumeyko noted that there were several views on the status of the Council of the Federation. Some people believe the council should be a buffer between the president and the State Duma. Shumeyko stressed in this connection that the "legislative power has never been nor will be a buffer".

Shumeyko, who is also chairman of the Council of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, dwelt on the role of parliaments in the effort to integrate the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). He noted that the former Soviet republics had many common interests. The problem is to "find optimal ways for their rapprochement without harming their sovereignty".

Rybkin Meets Azerbaijani Counterpart

LD2604125094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Speaker of the Russian State Duma, Ivan Rybkin, met Monday speaker of the Azeri parliament, Rasul Guliyev.

A spokesman for the State Duma quoted Guliyev as saying that the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia cannot be solved without Russia's involvement. For his part, Rybkin said that even though Russia was criticized by many for "taking too much upon itself" in terms of settling ethnic conflicts, its efforts are "sincere and will be continued".

Guliyev stated with regret that Russia was gradually losing its influence in Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijan in Russia. This cannot be permitted, he said, since close economic contacts between Moscow and Baku will do more for strengthening the Russian influence in the East than "the use of force".

Under discussion was also the problem of drawing closer the Russian and Azeri legislations, first of all, in the sphere of customs.

Guliyev Declares Friendship With Russia

LD2704153294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1438 GMT 27 April 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Schulman]

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS—Traditional friendly and goodneighbourly relations between Russia and Azerbaijan of centuries-long standing are not subject to time-serving considerations, Azerbaijani Parliament Speaker Rasul Guliyev on visit here told a session of the Federation Council (the upper house of the Russian parliament) on Wednesday.

According to Guliyev, the historical task of statesmen consists in preserving these traditions.

He called on the Russian legislators to do their best to make friendship and mutual understanding a leit-motiv of future relations between the two countries.

Azerbaijan takes on an important task of establishing friendly, balanced relations with the rest of the world and with Russia in the first place, he said.

"In this respect, our general position consists in attaching an irreversible character to the positive development of the interstate relations; that is, these relations should not depend on momentary, time-serving considerations and move onward," the Azerbaijani parliament speaker said.

Azerbaijan pays special attention to forming a legal basis of interstate relations, involving various fields. The supreme law-making bodies are playing a leading part in forming such a legal basis and in this connection he expressed hope that Russian and Azerbaijani parliaments would do their best to put the bilateral relations on this authoritative basis, Guliyev said.

Guliyev described current situation in Azerbaijan as complex, characterized by a drop in production, destroyed economic ties, weakness of the financial system and other acute consequences of economic crisis.

"One might try to get out of the tight spot on one's own, but one would have to pay an exorbitant price for such an attempt," he remarked. In his opinion, therefore, it would be reasonable for Russia and Azerbaijan to join efforts for the purpose of exchanging help and support.

Azerbaijan attaches "great importance to Russian experience in implementing large-scale economic reforms, to cooperation in the field of safeguarding human rights and creating new state structuring", he emphasized.

Guliyev also spoke at length about Armeno-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. In his opinion, the most important thing now is to stop the bloodshed, to put an end to the war because this will meet the vital interests of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Guliyev Addresses Federation Council

NC2704200494 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The delegation headed by Chairman of the Republic's Supreme Soviet Rasul Guliyev is continuing its official visit to Moscow. Here is a report by our correspondent Sakit Ochakhly over a telephone line:

[Begin Ochakhly recording] Rasul Guliyev, chairman of the Republic's Supreme Soviet, and other members of the National Assembly, who are on a visit to Moscow, met today with Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council of Russia. A broad exchange of views were held on concrete issues.

Rasul Guliyev, the head of the Azerbaijani Parliament, addressed the Federation Council today.

In giving the podium to Rasul Guliyev, Shumeyko declared that he was the first foreign parliamentary speaker addressing this assembly since its formation.

Rasul Guliyev noted that Azerbaijan is ready to establish bilateral relations with all the countries, primarily with Russia, on the condition of respect for principles of mutual concern, national independence, renunciation of force, inviolability of the borders and territorial integrity, peaceful resolution of conflicts, and no interference in each other's domestic affairs.

He also informed the deputies about the occupation of our lands by Armenian Armed Forces and the detention of 4,000 hostages and prisoners of war under unbearable conditions in Armenia.

He expressed the conviction that the Federation Council of Russia will take concrete steps for the objective resolution of any conflict arising between the CIS members. [end recording]

Kozyrev Urges Peacekeeping Forces in Azerbaijan

NC2704211794 Baku TURAN in English 1636 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow (April 27) TURAN—"Russia sees introduction of separating peacemaking forces of the CIS as effective means in the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict", said Russian Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, during the meeting with speaker of Azerbaijani Parliament, Rasul Guliyev.

Sources in Russian Foreign Ministry report that during the talks with Russian Foreign Ministry, Azerbaijani delegation announced Baku's attitude to Russian settlement plan.

As was known, Azerbaijan's position is: unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from occupied Azerbaijani territories, talks concerning the status of Nagorno-Karabakh must begin after return of Azerbaijani refugees to their native lands. Baku does not agree to give the control over Lachin and Shusha to Armenia or any foreign state.

Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that "the position of Azerbaijani party can aggravate settlement of the problem since Armenia will never agree to accept these proposals".

On Tuesday Azerbaijan officials has met with Russian officials in the Russian Duma and Russian Defense Ministry.

Grachev 'Beside Himself' at Treatment in Ukraine

PM2704105194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 1

[Boris Glebov article: "Sevastopol Will Stick in General Grachev's Memory for a Long Time"]

[Text] In addition to the diplomatic failure of the talks on the Black Sea Fleet between the defense ministers of Russia and Ukraine, General Grachev's visit to Sevastopol also distressed him personally. After the virtual collapse of the talks Ministers Grachev and Radetskyy publicly exchanged caustic remarks: In a statement on Ukrainian television Gen. Vitaliy Radetskyy bitingly "nicknamed" Pavel Grachev "pan general."

Already standing on the steps of the "ministerial" Tu-154, Gen. Grachev in turn told the Ukrainian officers seeing him off his opinion of the reception given him and the entire Russian delegation on Ukrainian soil. The crux of Minister Grachev's statement boiled down to this: Of course, Ukraine is still a very young state, but this certainly does not excuse the way foreign delegations are received here (Grachev had in mind the Russian Defense Ministry delegation). Pavel Grachev went on to insert a sentence about the Ukrainian side's lack of concepts of diplomatic etiquette and said that he would not have been at all surprised if, instead of leaving for Moscow, Ukrainian special-purpose troops had arrested the Russian delegation right at the airport and clapped him—the Russian Federation minister of defense—in handcuffs!

The persons accompanying Grachev were evidently not the only ones to appreciate the general's joke, for by a "strange" coincidence the Ukrainian air traffic controllers (the Russian delegation was flying from the "Belbek" military airfield of the Ukrainian Air Defense Forces) prohibited Grachev's aircraft from taking off. From 1600 through 1740 hours—for almost two hours—Ukraine did not grant the Russian delegation the right to leave Ukrainian soil. It all ended in Pavel Grachev, now beside himself, issuing a personal order to the commander of his Tu-154: "To hell with them, we're taking off!..." The airliner with the Russian delegation on board took off from "Belbek" without permission from the Ukrainian air traffic controllers.

Incidentally, according to recent data, at the time of the Russian-Ukrainian talks in Sevastopol Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, took no part in them because he was on the "sick list" with a heart attack. The Black Sea Fleet leadership was represented by Vice Admiral Vitaliy Larionov, deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet.

The Ukrainian side greeted the Russian delegation more than strangely: A military subunit of the Ukrainian Air Defense Forces stationed on Cape Khersones, in full combat gear, rehearsed...the defense of the approaches to Khersones against attack by units of the Russian Black Sea Fleet! At the same time, on the roof of Sevastopol dolphinarium, servicemen of the Ukrainian Navy's marines had ostentatiously set up a post for round-the-clock observation of the Black Sea Fleet Marines brigade (based in "Kazachya" Bay, within the limits of Sevastopol). Observation is still being carried out using special facilities: night-vision devices and the latest communications equipment. Ukrainian servicemen do not conceal their animosity toward the target of observation.

Directly after the Russian Federation Defense Ministry delegation left Sevastopol, the Ukrainian side put very strong pressure on senior officers of the Black Sea Fleet Marines brigade (from "Kazachya" Bay) to make them switch to the Ukrainian side and take the Ukrainian oath.

They even telephoned certain Russian officers of the Black Sea Fleet at home, agitating for Ukraine. In their official zeal the "agitators"—Ukrainian Navy officers Captain First Rank Yevgeniy Ivanov and Lieutenant Colonel Aleksey Murashev—went so far in their "agitation" that they even disavowed a statement by their own President Kravchuk and explained to the Russian sailors that Sevastopol will no longer be a base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet!

There then followed, naturally, promises of high official salaries and ranks in the Ukrainian Armed Forces right up to those of a general. And all this just for switching the Black Sea Fleet Marines brigade in Sevastopol to the Ukrainian oath and command.

Defense Ministry To Pay Back Fleet Wages

MK2704115094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 1

[Vladimir Pasyakin report in the "News" column: "'Russia's Karbovanets' Keep the Black Sea Fleet Afloat"]

[Text] On the very first day of the Russian delegation's work in Sevastopol, Colonel General Vasiliy Vorobyev, chief the Russian Federation Defense Ministry's Main Military Budget and Financing Directorate, told Black Sea Fleet servicemen that funds have been remitted to the fleet from Russia and that monetary allowances for February will be paid without delay.

It has recently become known that allowances will also be paid for March and April. The Black Sea Fleet's financial service specified that the overall sum of transfers to the fleet from Russia has constituted 116 billion karbovanets ($3.22 million).

Radetskyy Seen Ascendant at Kravchuk's Expense

MK2704112094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 4

[Yuriy Selivanov report in the "Power" column: "Who Controls the Situation in Ukraine. Or Why Mr. Radetskyy Ignores President Kravchuk's Position"]

[Text] Because the final session of the former Ukrainian Supreme Soviet took place a few days ago, the legislative branch in the republic has temporarily ceased to exist. For now, it is hard to tell how long this will last. Therefore, during this period all power in Ukraine has been concentrated in the hands of Leonid Kravchuk, who is to continue in his presidential post for approximately two more months. Nonetheless, judging by some signs, Mr. Kravchuk's control of the situation is rather weak. The most graphic evidence of this is the openly rebellious behavior by Ukraine Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy, who at the talks in Sevastopol completely ignored his president's position on the issue of Black Sea Fleet basing, even at the risk of thwarting the talks.

Observers consider at least three versions explaining the situation that has arisen. First, it cannot be ruled out that Kravchuk and Radetskyy are acting on an earlier coordinated plan. The president is demonstrating his inherent peace-loving nature, while the defense minister, who has ostensibly "gotten out of hand," is "misbehaving" somewhat. Yet at stake is Mr. Kravchuk's personal prestige and his ability to control the situation. He would hardly agree to have his competence called into question. The second version is based on the assumption that at the talks in Moscow, Leonid Kravchuk went too far in agreeing to the principle of the navies' separate basing, and then, recognizing his mistake, left Vitaliy Radetskyy to make up for his blunder. It is hard to believe, however, that such an experienced and cunning politician as Leonid Kravchuk, who carefully calculates his moves, could have disgraced himself so.

Since the first two explanations of the situation that has emerged in the relations between the Ukrainian president and his defense minister are inconsistent, there is the last one—most simple and alarming. Leonid Kravchuk is gradually losing effective control of the events. If this assumption is true, therefore not only legislative but also any supreme political authority is absent in Ukraine.

The resultant period of power vacuum can be taken advantage of primarily by various national-patriotic organizations. In light of this the manifestation of unusual independence on the part of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, where the most avid supporters of the national-patriotic idea are concentrated, is a more than alarming symptom.

According to some leaders of the national-radical orientation, such as Mikhail Goryn and Stepan Khmara, the patriotic forces of Ukraine have literally just a few weeks to save the great power from another enslavement. This time frame is dictated by the date of the upcoming June presidential elections. The elections will not gain anything for the national patriots, while the advent to power of a leader like Leonid Kuchma is regarded by them as the end of the history of independent Ukraine. The wish of the "true patriots" to prevent such an end is quite natural. Which methods will be used for this, the very near future will show. Yet it is clear already at this stage that they can be rather far from democracy, which has not justified the "nationalists'" hopes: That much is clear to anyone today. Signs are that Vitaliy Radetskyy, who is showing an "independence" rather unusual for a defense minister, has been assigned a far from minor role in the pending events.

Seamen Challenge Ukraine Navy Commander's Integrity

MK2704123094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 3

[Vladimir Maryukha report: "Northern Fleet Seamen Write a Letter to 'Pan [Ukrainian equivalent of 'Mr.'] Admiral.' Vladimir Bezkorovaynyy's Former Colleagues Would Like To Know When He Was Honest"]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The submariners of the Northern Fleet relate the illegal actions against Black Sea Fleet personnel directly to their former colleague, Vice Admiral Vladimir Bezkorokaynyy, currently commander in chief of the Ukraine Navy. More than 30 admirals and senior officers of the unit, which in the past was under Vladimir Gerasimovich's command, signed an open letter to "Pan Admiral" with the only aim: to understand when their former colleague was honest with them and himself. Either on the day the State Committee for the State of Emergency was formed, when he "solemnly announced before servicemen in formation the long-awaited eclipse of democracy," or four days later, when he "swore loyalty to the new ruling authority." Or maybe when he called: "Let us stand up for Russia! We shall not allow the union of fraternal peoples welded by blood to be destroyed." Or when guys in camouflage uniform committed acts of arbitrariness with respect to the families of those who only a few months ago "you called Black Sea Fleet heroes." [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry on Kazakh-Chinese Border Accord

LD2704173494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1254 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Kirillov]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 27 Apr—The signing of the Chinese-Kazakh border agreement in Almaty on Tuesday "has no effect" on future talks between the joint delegation from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan, and China about the western part of the former Soviet-Chinese border, a high-ranking diplomat taking part in these talks told the ITAR-TASS correspondent today. According to him, "everything is going well at the moment" and Kazakhstan's representatives will obviously continue to take part in the work of the joint delegation, since some work on the demarcation of the border still lies ahead.

Russia, the diplomat said, has "absolutely no problems" on the 55 kilometer western section of its border with China.

No Differences With U.S. on Mideast Settlement

LD2704140094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Russia and the United States now have no fundamental differences on problems of an Arab-Israeli settlement, Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated after his meeting in Geneva with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. In the past week Moscow was the center of the Middle East peace process, he said: it was visited by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Now Washington is, as it were, taking over the baton from us, and it is very important for our actions to be coordinated, Kozyrev stressed. The Russian minister had in mind the visit by the U.S. Secretary of State to the Near East, which starts today. Christopher will visit Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel and Syria.

Israeli Prime Minister Wraps Up Visit to Russia

Grachev, Rabin Discuss Military Cooperation

MK2704095094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 1

[Pavel Felgengauer report in the "Generals" column: "The Two Countries' Armies Warily Are Getting Ready to Cooperate" under general headline: "Israel Asks Russia To Influence the Arabs"]

[Text] Yesterday for the first time in history Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev held negotiations with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The meeting lasted longer than planned, and General Rabin was therefore somewhat late at the General Staff Academy, where he gave a lecture on the Israeli "science of victory."

The Israeli Army has long been a subject of interest to some Russian military leaders as a possible model for organizing future Russian armed forces. Especially the process of raising extremely combat-efficient troops with conscripts and reservists, the organization of a really universal military conscription system, and other features that set the Israeli Army apart from the U.S. Army, which for several years has been proffered to our military as the key model to emulate.

But even more than military cooperation with the Israeli Army, Russia is interested in the Arab arms market. Gen. Grachev admitted the similarity of the two countries' military doctrines and accepted in principle an invitation to go to Israel on an official visit, although its date has not been fixed: "The question will be considered at expert level." Since last summer an Israeli military attache—Colonel Mikha'el Shtiglits (before 1972, a USSR citizen)—has been working in Moscow. At the same time the Russian Federation Defense Ministry is only planning to open its attache office in Tel Aviv. Gen. Grachev announced that "only after the attaches have elaborated on the problem will it be possible to talk about the prospects for military cooperation."

As a result, these talks between Generals Rabin and Grachev were devoted mainly to discussing the general political situation in the Middle East. A high-ranking participant in the negotiations on the Russian side told me that "matters of military and technical cooperation have not been discussed."

Grachev To Visit Israel

LD2604154194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1433 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Apr—The considerable similarity of Russian and Israeli military doctrines was stressed today by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev after holding talks with Yitzhaq Rabin, Israeli prime minister and defense minister. The meeting lasted more than an hour.

During the meeting the head of the Israeli Government, who was a combat general in the recent past, set out the main principles of Israel's military doctrine. Theoretically Israel's defensive strategy corresponds to a considerable degree with our own doctrine—both of them are based on defense, the Russian minister pointed out. The only difference is that we mould our defenses in different ways. Their effectiveness depends on equipment which both armies use.

Pavel Grachev stressed that the Russian leadership attaches special importance to the achievement of peace in the Near East since this region is in direct proximity to Russia's borders. Failure to settle Near East problems could have unpredictable consequences, including ethnic and religious ones, for the entire world, including Russia. In this connection it is essential to make every effort to bring about a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. This can only be achieved through joint efforts.

Pavel Grachev noted the importance of varied, including military, cooperation between Russia and Israel. Naturally, he said, from the results of the first meeting we cannot examine the possibilities opening up before us in detail. But a mechanism for implementing these plans already exists: a military attache from Israel is already working in Moscow, at the end of April or beginning of May the apparatus of a Russian military attache will be working in Israel. We shall charge them with working out the relevant program, Grachev said. Today our guest in his capacity as minister of defense has invited me to make an official visit to Israel, and there we shall outline a plan for our future bilateral relations in the military field.

Israel's prime minister stated that the Russian leadership, and first and foremost Russian President Boris Yeltsin, had assured him that Russia is striving to achieve the establishment of peace in the Near East. This striving, Y. Rabin said, we also share, although we have different contacts and relations with the third parties. When the aims are identical, however, corresponding interests also emerge that will, I hope, lead to the successful completion of the Arab-Israeli talks.

After the meeting Yitzhaq Rabin delivered a lecture to an audience at the Academy of the General Staff on the subject of military doctrine in Israel.

Rabin Condemns Hamas

LD2604172194 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Today, Yitzhaq Rabin told a group of journalists in Moscow that there continues to be a major chance of implementing the Near East peace process. Yitzhaq Rabin noted:

[Begin Rabin recording, in Hebrew, with superimposed Russian translation] At all events there is no doubt that public support for the peace process and agreement with the PLO [brief break in transmission] a consequence of certain political views. This is the natural result of the disillusionment of very many of our people. People are disappointed that, while the talks seem to be continuing, the number of terrorist acts is not only not declining but, in terms of the number of casualties...[pauses] More and more people are suffering. This is a direct result of the fact that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, which are responsible for this terror, are headed by extremists and religious fanatics, who will go to any lengths to strangle the peace process. [end recording]

Rabin Against Troops in Gaza, West Bank

LD2604195694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1942 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told a news conference at the Russian Foreign Ministry's press center here today he is grateful to the Russian president for his invitation to come to Russia on an official visit. This is the first Moscow visit of an Israeli premier.

Yitzhaq Rabin noted the role of the Soviet Union in creation of the Israeli state, including military support without which, in the words of Rabin, Israel would hardly complete the war for independence with a success. Then, there was 40-years-long absence of any relations between the two states.

Rabin said the current Russian policy aims to achieve peace in the Middle East and other world regions. Russia, same as the United States, may play a positive encouraging role in making Arabs and Israelis to put an end to violence, terror and war, said Rabin. At the same time, neither co-sponsor can substitute parties to the conflict or stop the conflict and bring peace to the region on its own.

Speaking of the Russian-Israeli relations, the prime minister said the Moscow negotiations resulted in signing of six agreements. On Wednesday the sides are expected to sign the most important document—on the free trade zone. These documents will be a good basis for the development of bilateral cooperation in agriculture, science, tourism and other spheres, stressed the official.

The Moscow negotiations also discussed a possibility to establish broader relations and more close contact between the two defence systems. He said the sides will work for positive changes in relations of giant Russia and small, but proud and independent Israel. This will be a new start for the development of good relations between the two states. Yitzhaq Rabin thinks these relations will be even better under new conditions.

The Israeli Government head stressed he does not agree with the idea to convene the 2nd Madrid conference and thinks bilateral negotiations of Israel and its Arab opponents would do better. He hopes that the Cairo negotiations with Palestinians will result in an agreement to be implemented in a short period.

This will create a new reality and enable Palestinians to regulate their life themselves. It is not a complete autonomy, but the one without any damage to Israel, said Rabin.

Speaking of the reasons for delayed implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the official said they are unforeseen circumstances. The dates were changed because a corresponding agreement was not achieved, he said.

The Israeli prime minister sharply criticized the fundamentalist radical groups of Hamas and al-Jihad al-Islam which orient at "Khomeynism without Khomeyni". Their aim is to torpedo the peace process, stressed the Israeli official. The only possible response is boosted negotiations and achievement of a viable agreement with due account of the sides' interests.

Rabin called against the deployment of international forces from the U.S. And Russia in the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area. He said the co-sponsors should not risk the life of their citizens at this stage.

In the opinion of Yitzhaq Rabin, peace in the Middle East can be achieved on condition of peace between Arabs and Israel and control over actions of Iran, which is striving to blast the regional situation.

Speaking of the Russian relations with Arab states, the prime minister stressed they should be considered from the point of view of their influence on the peace process. Rabin reaffirmed the Israeli readiness to withdraw

troops from Syrian Golan Heights, that is the most painful compromises in exchange for peace. At the same time, geographic scale of the withdrawal will depend on how profound the peace agreements would be, he said.

Rabin denied Israel and Lebanon have a territorial dispute. When the Lebanese Government provide for security of the Israeli northern borders from encroachments of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah group, Israel will be ready to liquidate this safety zone on the south of the neighbouring state, he said.

Tomorrow morning the prime minister will complete the official part of his visit and leave for St. Petersburg.

Rabin, Chernomyrdin Sign Trade Accord

LD2704140594 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] This morning at the capital's airport Vnukovo-II, Viktor Chernomyrdin and Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin signed a trade and economic agreement. It lays the legal basis for large-scale Russian-Israeli economic cooperation.

Interfax reports that the the idea for signing such a document had arisen in the course of intergovernmental talks in Moscow on 25 April. The agreement was prepared in the course of 24 hours. After the signing of the trade and economic agreement, the head of the Israeli Government set off for St. Petersburg.

Rabin Views Relations With Russia

LD2704185694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 27 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] In an exclusive interview to Ostankino, [Israeli Prime Minister] Yitzhaq Rabin expressed his satisfaction that the main purpose of Russian policy in the Middle East is to ensure peace, security, and stability. The Israeli prime minister believes that by making its actions in the international arena more active last month, our country is entering a new period of foreign and domestic policy. As far as the Middle East settlement is concerned, Yitzhaq Rabin highly estimated the role of Russia and the United States as mediators in the progress of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. However, he believes the solution of the problem depends, above all, on the sides involved in the conflict. The prime minister expressed Israel's interest in extending bilateral contacts with Russia and said in future they will spread to the military sphere. Yitzhaq Rabin believes the forthcoming visit by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev to Tel Aviv will be the first step in the development of Israeli-Russian cooperation in this field.

Deputy Minister Views Talks With Rabin

LD2704161394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1557 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By Diplomatic Correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaly Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Russia is interested in the development of "good relations" with Israel. In this aspect the visit to Moscow of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was "fruitful," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov told Interfax on Wednesday.

In his opinion, the time wasted as a result of the break-off of diplomatic relations "did not give Moscow more opportunities to promote a peaceful solution in the Middle East."

Kolokolov expressed satisfaction with the content of "detailed" talks between Rabin and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on the problems of the Middle East settlement. They discussed the fate of Palestinian territories (Gaza and Jericho) which are now being liberated. "The main problem is how to organize the transitional period better so that by its end in two to three years normal Palestinian self-government structures can be formed there. We are satisfied with the discussion of this problem with the Israeli leader," Kolokolov said.

He noted that Rabin expressed interest in continuation of Israel's talks on the Syrian, Jordan and Lebanese questions.

Speaking about the prospect for calling a peace conference Madrid-2 at Russia's initiative, Kolokolov said that during talks in Moscow, the Israeli premier "did not deny such a possibility in principle." "At the same time, Russia and Israel understand that it is unrealistic to call Madrid-2 tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. It should be thoroughly prepared. The purpose of this conference is to summarize the results of the latest stage and to consider the possibility of intensifying activities in various directions. By the way, problems occurring at the bilateral talks could be a subject of discussions at Madrid-2," Kolokolov said.

Speaking about the supplies of Russian arms to Syria which concern Israel, Kolokolov referred just to spare parts for weapons which were supplied earlier. "I understand the concerns of the Israeli side, but Syrians are also worried about supplies of new Western arms to Israel. Besides, Russia is not supplying offensive arms to anybody. We can talk just about supplies of spare parts and "defense weapons" to Syria. And if we do not sell military equipment to Syrians, other countries can do that," the diplomat said.

He noted that Russia will do all it can to help Tel-Aviv find prisoners and missing Israeli soldiers. "We promised to get involved in that and to ask corresponding Arabic countries, where these people can be, in the first

place Syria. Russian first vice-premier Oleg Soskovets now visiting Damascus has already been instructed duly," Kolokolov said.

Speaking about the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and Jericho, he noted that "Tel-Aviv promised to do that in the near future." "The delay in the withdrawal can be explained by technical reasons. Preliminarily, it is necessary to prepare the Palestinian police and that needs time and money. Israel has already urged a number of Western countries to ask for a certain sum for the formation of the Palestinian police," Kolokolov said.

Rabin Views Peace Prospects

PM2704101594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 3

[Konstantin Eggert report on interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin: "Yitzhaq Rabin: 'Russia and America Should Help Us, Not Reach Agreement on Our Behalf'"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin received correspondents from IZVESTIYA, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, and Radio Ekho Moskvy at the government residence on Kosygin Street. Like most politicians, the head of the Israeli Government basically preferred to talk about what he thought was important, thus avoiding giving answers to tough questions.

The premier acknowledged that in the short term the peace in the Near East will be a peace between leaders rather than peoples. "There is a big gap between peace in name only and the peace that passes via the hearts of people," he said. Rabin noted that Arab leaders agreed to talk with Israel only because they realized they could achieve nothing by violence against the Jewish state. "We are not cutting our military expenditure, since our military might is a guarantee of security and a guarantee that the talks will continue. It is a factor which encourages the strengthening of trends toward a peaceful political solution," the prime minister stated.

Yitzhaq Rabin addressed the topic of Islamic fundamentalism, which is particularly alarming to the Israelis. In his opinion, the danger is posed not so much by extremists from Hamas who are directly threatening the lives of Israelis, but by the spread of "Khomeyni-ism without Khomeyni," even in countries in the region that are located a long way from Israel. "Fundamentalism is undermining the stability of moderate Arab regimes as a whole, and this is our problem too," Rabin believes.

The premier refused to say how he regarded the prospects of his Labor Party, and his own prospects, in future parliamentary elections in the wake of the Hebron massacre, which demonstrated how far the opponents of peace among the Jews themselves are prepared to go. However, he acknowledged that the popularity of the peace process has declined throughout large sections of Israeli society.

"Many people ask me," the premier continued, "why we need peace when any fanatic can strap explosives around his waist and destroy a passenger bus? How can we be certain that 'Arafat, once he has assumed control of the Gaza sector with its 750,000 Palestinians, many of whom will remain terrorists until the end of their days, will be able to ensure order there?"

"I belong to the category of politicians who are convinced that the risk is great, but this risk also engenders hope, and it should be given a chance," the head of the Israeli Government stated. "Needless to say, this will be a big test for Yasir 'Arafat as well."

Diplomatic politeness obliged Yitzhaq Rabin to say only agreeable things about Russia, despite the fact that a certain strain was very evident in bilateral relations back in March. At that time his cabinet, backed by Washington, was extremely skeptical about Moscow's proposal to start preparing the second stage of the Madrid peace conference. "I see no disagreements between the cochairmen of the peace conference—Russia and the United States," the prime minister said. "Their task is to help the two sides directly responsible for stopping the war; they can also agree between themselves, but they should certainly not conclude any agreements on the two sides' behalf."

Rabin Visits St Petersburg

LD2704084894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0751 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Svetlana Ivanova]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 27 TASS—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is currently in Russia on an official visit, on Wednesday arrived in St. Petersburg, the hometown of his mother.

On his way from the airport, the Israeli premier laid flowers at the monument to the heroic defenders of the city during the Second World War.

In the course of the day Mr Rabin intends to take in the Hermitage art collections, visit the St. Petersburg mission of the Jewish Sohnut agency, a synagogue, and the international school of public education.

Mr Rabin is to leave St. Petersburg for Israel on Wednesday night.

Holds News Conference

LD2704202794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2023 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Svetlana Ivanova]

[Text] St. Petersburg April 27 TASS—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin gave a short news conference at the end of his one-day visit to St. Petersburg on Wednesday.

Before leaving by plane for Tel-Aviv, Rabin expressed hope that fulfilment of the bilateral agreements signed earlier in Moscow will contribute to developing cooperation between the two countries.

The Israeli prime minister met with deputy head of St. Petersburg administration Aleksey Kudrin. The exchange of ideas proved useful for the Russian party, because Israel earlier used to tackle the problems which Russia faces now. These include controlling the inflation, privatization (especially, privatization of housing construction) and developing the agro-industrial complex.

Asked to comment on his decision to fly aboard an ordinary Israeli plane together with 170 emigrants from Kiev and 25 from St. Petersburg, rather than aboard a chartered one, like he did when he arrived in Russia, Rabin said he wanted to share—if only for once—the sentiments of those who had made the hard choice to leave their birth-places for ever.

Russian Delegation Holds Talks in Damascus

Soskovets Meets Syrian Defense Minister

LD2604161194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1422 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Damascus, 26 Apr—Oleg Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government, who is on an official visit to Syria, today held talks with General Mustafa Talas, the Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of defense.

Yuriy Mikhaylov, the vice premier's advisor, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the prospects for bilateral cooperation were examined at the meeting. During the talks Oleg Soskovets noted that Russia continues to view Syria as a friendly state. "We must not waste all that we have achieved before in our relations," he said. "We have been friends for too long."

Mustafa Talas supported the position of the Russian first vice premier. Nevertheless, the general noted a certain cooling in mutual relations between the two states, particularly in the last few years. He spoke of Syria's readiness to open a new page in cooperation with Russia.

Oleg Soskovets described the agreement on cooperation between our two countries, which is being prepared for signing within the framework of the Russian delegation's visit, as first and foremost a political step. "The position of the Russian leadership is clear—to enter into normal cooperation," he stressed.

Officials Discuss Contacts

LD2704091694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0642 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Oleg Velichko and Dmitriy Zelenin]

[Text] Damascus April 27 TASS—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Viktor Posuvalyuk, the Russian president's special representative in the Middle East, here on Tuesday [26 April]. Topical problems of the situation in the region were discussed. The Syrian minister welcomed the effective role of Russia as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process.

The two sides agreed to continue to maintain close coordination and partnership with a view to achieving progress at the Arab- Israeli peace talks.

Interparliamentary cooperation between Russia and Syria was the subject of discussion during a meeting between Aleksandr Dzasokhov, deputy chairman of the parliamentary group of the Russian Federation, and Syrian Parliament Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah here on Tuesday. They expressed mutual striving of the parliamentarians of the two countries to broaden contacts between the legislatures of Russia and Syria.

Officials Debate Debt Issue

LD2704081794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0747 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Oleg Velichko and Dmitriy Zelenin]

[Text] Damascus, April 27 (TASS)—A Russian Government delegation, led by First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets, is to complete its three-day official visit to Syria on Wednesday. A cooperation agreement is to be signed as a result of the talks.

Soskovets is also scheduled to meet with Syrian President Hafez al-Asad later in the day. Everything seems to indicate that Soskovets will leave for Moscow by air on Wednesday afternoon.

When addressing members of the Syrian business community on Tuesday, Soskovets pointed out that the Russian delegation "is authorised to restore the partially lost economic and political contacts".

The two sides admitted that the current state of trade-and-economic cooperation does not meet the interests of the two states. Oleg Davydov, Russian minister for foreign economic relations, believes that in order to straighten out the historically established relations between Russia and Syria, it is essential to sign two agreements soon, namely, on the protection of investments and on the prevention of double taxation. Besides, Davydov suggested founding several jointly-run Russo-Syrian banks.

As far as the rather delicate Syrian debt issue is concerned, the two sides consider that a political decision on it should be made. For its part, Syria reaffirmed its readiness to repay the current debt to Russia.

The work on agreements, which are being prepared for signature, is proceding with difficulty, Yuriy Mikhaylov, adviser to the first vice-premier, told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday. He said the Russian side had expressed readiness to offset more than 80 percent of the Syrian debt which is known to have amounted to about 10,000 million U.S. dollars.

The Russian side suggested the following formula as regards the remaining 20 percent of the debt: 60 percent of this amount is to be repaid by Damascus in freely convertible currency and the other 40 percent are to be redeemed with consumer goods on a ten-year instalment plan. However, the formula proved unacceptable to Syria. For its part, Damascus would like Russia to offset 92 percent of the debt, Mikhaylov said.

At the close of the second round of the talks, the two sides agreed to continue work on a debt agreement at expert groups' level and voiced hope that it would be signed before the Russian vice-premier meets President Al-Asad.

Military Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD2704194394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1857 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Zelenin and Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Damascus, 27 Apr—Oleg Soskovets, Russian first deputy prime minister, who is here on an official visit, and Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas, today signed an agreement on military-technical cooperation.

After the signing of the document, the Russian first deputy prime minister said that the Russian president considers it essential to resume cooperation between the two states that has been partially lost of late. The signing of today's agreement, Oleg Soskovets noted, shows the desire of Moscow and Syria to engage in systematic cooperation in the military-technical sphere.

Mustafa Talas appraised the agreement as "a first step in the right direction." He expressed the need for a restoration of the former relationship with Russia. In this respect, he particularly emphasized that Damascus "has strong friends in Moscow." "The agreement signed today is evidence of this," he said.

As for the essence of the document, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by a well-informed source in the Russian delegation that it is evidence of the beginning of a new relationship. The two sides agreed to form a working commission, which will set about its work in a few weeks' time.

Today, too, Oleg Soskovets had a three-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. According to the deputy prime minister, the Syrian head of state supported the main positions in the agreement on military-technical cooperation.

After the signing of the agreement, Oleg Soskovets left by air for Moscow.

No 'Offensive' Arms To Be Sold

MK2804071094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Russia Will Sell to Syria 'Only Defense Weapons'"]

[Text] Boris Kolokolov, Russian Federation deputy foreign minister, has stated that Russia will not sell offensive weapons to Syria. "The question now is only the selling of spare parts for weapons delivered earlier. We can only speak about the deliveries to Syria of spare parts and 'defense weapons,'" he said. He also pointed out that Russia would give Tel Aviv "whatever help it can" in looking for Israeli soldiers taken prisoner or missing in action: "Oleg Soskovets, who is on a visit to Damascus, has already been instructed correspondingly," Mr. Kolokolov said.

Foreign Ministry Lauds South African Elections

LD2604195494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1909 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Russia is firmly convinced that supporters of terror in South Africa will not manage to impede the advent of a new society, that South Africans will make their choice in favor of democracy and peace in the country, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, Grigory Karasin, told a briefing in Moscow Tuesday.

Karasin pointed out that for the first time in South Africa's history its people cast their ballots for a non-racial parliament.

According to Karasin, Russia, which made a considerable contribution to dismantling the apartheid regime, believes in a new South Africa's future. U.N.-sponsored Russian observers in South Africa and a number of official observers from Russia are another sign of this, the diplomat said.

At the same time, Karasin pointed out that in South Africa there remained forces which did not hope to win electors' sympathy in a fair struggle under equal conditions and vainly tried to stop the historical process and torpedo the elections. "This is how the explosion of a car in Johannesburg near the building where the ANC headquarters and affiliates of a number of other political parties are situated should be understood," Karasin pointed out.

Panamanian Foreign Minister Sums Up Visit

LD2704212794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1618 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Golubov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr—The visit to Moscow and the talks held here with heads of various Russian ministries and departments, as well as with entrepreneurs, have borne an exclusively constructive character, Panamanian Foreign Affairs Minister Jose Raul Mulino told the ITAR-TASS correspondent before flying off to St. Petersburg. "Although the visit to Russia—the first since diplomatic relations were set up between the countries in March 1991—was most of all one of fact-finding, our delegation leaves Moscow with a full portfolio of specific ideas that we intend to implement in the very near future," the head of Panama's Foreign Ministry emphasized.

The most important result of the trip was the signing, after talks, by J.R. Mulino and his Russian colleague Andrey Kozyrev of a declaration on principles for mutual activities and cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Panama. The foreign ministers agreed to reorganize the consulates general and embassies of the two countries. In the opinion of J.R. Mulino and A. Kozyrev, this step raises the level of bilateral relations to that of full diplomacy, thereby opening new possibilities for unhampered, mutually advantageous links.

Besides his meeting with the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry, J.R. Mulino during his three-day visit to Moscow, held talks with the heads of the State Committee for the Management of State Property, the Russian Federal Assembly's Committee on International Affairs, and other Russian ministries and departments. The Panamanian minister also had a meeting at Kredo-Bank with representatives of the capital's financial circles. The cultural program for the Panamanian delegation's stay in Moscow included visiting the Bolshoy Theater and the Moscow Kremlin.

In the opinion of the head of the Panamanian Foreign Ministry there is enormous potential for the development of bilateral trade and economic relations. J.R. Mulino is certain that Panama, which possesses one of the biggest free trade zones in the Western hemisphere and a powerful international banking center, could be of inestimable service to Russia in the sphere of mastering financial know-how. In addition, the Panamanian side could assist Russia in setting up (?free trade) zones and insuring their normal functioning, [words indistinct], and also pass on some useful experience regarding the creation of legislation (?to insure the normal) development of the economy. On the other hand, if Russia fulfills its trade and investment potential on the Panamanian market, J.R. Mulino considers, this could make it possible for Russian businessmen to do without the services of European middlemen when buying many goods and products that, in turn, will in the end make the prices finally charged to the consumer for these goods and products more acceptable.

The head of the Latin American country's foreign policy department confirmed the intention that he expressed the previous day about organizing a visit to Moscow by a large group of Panamanian bankers and businessmen within the next three months; they would concern themselves with drawing up and implementing concrete trade and economic projects. The Panamanian side expects a similar step by Russia.

"Having seen with my own eyes the difficulties that your country is facing in its attempts to overcome the economic crisis, I am still confident that the next few years are very promising for Russia in terms of economic development," the Panamanian minister noted. I sincerely wish Russia success, he stressed at the end of the conversation.

It is expected that during his one-day stay in St. Petersburg J.R. Mulino will meet the leadership of the mayor's office in the city on the Neva, as well as representatives of local business circles. After this he will return home.

DPRK Allowance of IAEA Inspection Praised

SK2804055994 Moscow Radio Moscow in Korean 1200 GMT 27 Apr 94

[From the Today's World" program]

[Summary from poor reception] The DPRK has decided to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to inspect nuclear facilities in Yongbyon near Pyongyang. This has evoked a positive reaction among countries concerned. Pyongyang had not permitted the agency's special inspection of DPRK nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, and are thus suspected of developing nuclear weapons.

As the dispute over the nuclear issue of the peninsula further deteriorated, the position of some neighboring countries became more hardline. First of all, Pyongyang, Seoul, and Washington respectively assumed hardline positions. Pyongyang complained about the IAEA's unfair attitude in dealing with the North Korean nuclear issue. This made the IAEA's inspection more difficult.

On the other hand, the United States and the ROK were attempting to apply pressure on Pyongyang by talking about imposing economic saanctions or resuming the Team Spirity joint military exercise.

U.S. Secretary of State Cristopher said that the change in Pyongyang's position toward the IAEA's inspections is a good, positive phenomenon.

Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador to Russia, said that the IAEA inspection team scheduled to arrive in Yongbyon will be provided with all the conditions necessary for its work.

We can say that such a position of Pyongyang totally corresponds not only with the interests of the DPRK itself but also with the interests of other countries.

Foreign Ministry Assesses Japanese Foreign Minister

LD2804084294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0823 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Vladimir Solntsev]

[Text] Moscow April 28 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry positively appraised the appointment of Koji Kakizawa on Thursday to the post of Japanese foreign minister.

A high-ranking representative of the Russian Foreign Office noted in an interview with ITAR-TASS that Kakizawa "was long known as a man who actively participated in implementing Japanese foreign policy in many spheres, including the problem of ensuring security and settlement in Cambodia.

As for relations with Russia, the diplomat noted, "We proceed from a premise that they will constructively develop in the spirit of the positive tenor which is characteristic of the bilateral dialogue after the Tokyo visit by President Boris Yeltsin last October".

Kakizawa who was parliamentary deputy of the Japanese foreign minister in the past, repeatedly pointed to the need for "serious efforts to establish closer and normal relations between Japan and such important neighbour as the Russian Federation", stressing that these should be "long-term relations of friendship" turned to the 21st Century.

Japan Urges Control of Submarine Scrapping

LD2704110094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1014 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (TASS)—The Japanese Ministry for Foreign Trade and Industry has asked Russia to send its special representative to North Korea in order to personally control the scrapping of Russian submarines sold to the Korean People's Democratic Republic, which will rule out their use for military purposes. Otherwise, Tokyo theatens to block the deal, which is being effected with Japanese mediation.

ITAR-TASS was informed about this action by a representative of the "Toen Shioji" firm, which had organised the contract to deliver decommissioned Russian submarines to North Korea. He confirmed that, in accordance with the Japanese legislation, the government had the right to licence deals connected with potential armaments and that local firms were prohibited effect such transactions abroad. According to available information, the Russian side has still not replied to the demand to send a special representative to North Korea.

A senior official of the Japanese Ministry for Foreign Trade and Industry refused to comment on this information. However, he said that the Russian side had informed Tokyo through the Japanese Embassy in Moscow that the decommissioned submarines were being sold to North Korea as scrap metal and could not be regarded as military hardware.

A representative of the "Toen Shioji" firm said that only one decommissioned and disarmed submarine was so far delivered to North Korea where it was already scrapped. Under the above-mentioned contract, twelve Russian submarines, which are now being kept in half-sunken condition and are heavily rust-eaten, are to be delivered to North Korea. However, at present the "Toen Shioji" will have to get a separate permission from Japanese authorities to deliver each of them to North Korea.

The hullabaloo around this deal was raised in January, when the American press reported that Moscow, with Japanese mediation, had allegedly sold to North Korea a whole fleet of 40 decommissioned diesel submarines, capable of carrying 20 torpedoes each and laying sea mines. U.S. special services, the newspaper "ASAHI" wrote, had expressed apprehensions to Tokyo that those submarines could be used for military purposes.

Official on Military Cooperation With India

LD2804095494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0927 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksey Kuznetsov]

[Text] New Delhi April 28 TASS— "Prospects for Russo-Indian cooperation in military aviation are unlimited," Rostislav Belyakov, designer-general of the Mikoyan Design Bureau, told ITAR-TASS on Thursday. He attended a session of the Russo-Indian commission on aviation among a widely-representative delegation of the Russian aircraft industry and a number of leading design bureaus.

"A specific example of such cooperation has been provided by the initialing of an agreement in Delhi on the establishment of a joint venture for the maintenance of MiG aircraft that are in service with the Indian Air Force and for the manufacture of spare parts for them," Belyakov said.

"Along with our design bureau, the agreement was initialed by representatives from the 'Moscow Aircraft Industry Amalgametion' and the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) company.

"The realisation of the agreement will began immediately after it is approved by the governments of the two countries. This is expected to be done during the forthcoming visit of Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to Moscow in summer," Belyakov said.

The two sides discussed the technical aspects modernising MiG-21- Bis aircraft, which are to be fitted out with Russian-, Indian- and Western-made equipment, at HAL enterprises. The aircraft will be provided with new weapons and systems to control them and on-board instrumentation. This will increase the aircraft's combat potential several-fold, including its target spotting capability, Belyakov said.

Touching upon prospects for the purchase of an additional batch of Russian aircraft by India, Belyakov said it showed interest in buying ten MiG-29 aircraft. The Russian delegation officially offered a MiG-at training aircraft which the Air Force of the republic acutely needs, and suggested that the Indian side not only purchase these aircraft, which by their performance excel the British Hawk and the French Alpha jet aircraft which compete for the local market, but also co-develop and produce them.

Political Issues

Civic Accord Signing Ceremony Held 28 Apr

Yeltsin Opening Speech

LD2804120194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1000 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Address by President Boris Yeltsin at the signing of the Treaty on Social Accord in St. George's Hall in the Kremlin—live]

[Text] Esteemed participants in the assembly of civic accord:

On 26 April Andrey Daynisovich Ayzderdzis, State Duma and Federal Assembly deputy, died in tragic circumstances. Let common grief become another warning against violence. Let common grief join us in a quest for accord and peace for the whole of Russia and all Russian people. Before the beginning of the solemn ceremony for the signing of the Treaty on Social [obshchestvennyy] Accord I regard it as our common duty to pay our respects to the fallen deputy with a minute of silence.

Please be seated.

Esteemed participants in the assembly of civil accord, dear compatriots: Today a historic event is taking place in St. George's Hall in the Kremlin. Leaders of the Russian Government, Federation Council, and State Duma, leaders of the Constitutional, Supreme, and Arbitration Courts, and representatives of the State Duma factions are gathered here. Leaders of Russia's republics and regions, leaders of trade unions, parties, movements, and public associations and heads of religious confessions are among us. Representatives of the Public Chamber, deputies, and Russia's well-known public figures are present at the assembly.

We have different convictions and views as to what Russia should be, but we have a single, most important goal, which has managed to unite us—ensuring civil peace in Russia. This is the most important thing today.

Almost eight decades ago our country suffered a terrible tragedy. Russia was thrown into the bottomless abyss of civil war. Brother fought against brother, sons against fathers, and a bloody boundary divided people up into Whites and Reds, into us and them, and into enemies of each other.

From that time onward the curse of that war has been hanging over Russia. It is reflected in the genocide of the Cossacks, in the enforced collectivization which destroyed the flower of the peasantry. It is reflected in the repressions and deportations of peoples, in the punishment of the deprivation of citizenship and banishment from one's homeland.

The curse of civil war is reflected in the Novocherkassk shooting of 1962 [shooting of participants in peaceful workers demonstration], and in the events of August 1991 and of May and October 1993.

The bloody sequence of such events must be brought to a halt. This was not done by our grandfathers or fathers and we must do it ourselves. We are duty bound to do it, so as to hand a peaceful Russia on to our children, so as to draw the shadow of civil war away from Russia, a shadow that has been cast upon it for all these years.

We must turn over the tragic page of history and put a final stop to civil confrontation. I believe that we have enough will and wisdom to achieve this.

The Treaty on Social Accord is being signed in St. George's Hall in the Kremlin today. Any party, any organization, and any public movement may join the treaty. All those who are ready to take upon themselves the responsibility for civic peace and stability in Russia can join the treaty. The chief idea of this document is to refrain from using force to achieve political aims. All those who sign the Treaty on Social Accord pledge not to violate this ban.

Today we are all united in the view that there is not and cannot be any goal which could be achieved at the expense of blood and human life. By signing the treaty we confirm that only peaceful and only constitutional methods are permissible in Russia's policy. This is the basis of the accord, the basis of the state's normal work, and the basis of people's calm life. We are creating it through joint efforts, and I hope that our efforts will be supported by others.

The Treaty on Social Accord is being concluded for two years—for the period of most complicated and painful transformations. We have satisfied ourselves that while there is a confrontation, no matter who is in power, there will be no real results. A fruitless and exhausting struggle will not allow anyone to work, it will not allow the resolution of a single problem. The price of it is too high for the state and every citizen. We need to put an end to it.

Today we are taking a decisive step toward this. We want peace in Russia. We want our democratic, united Russian state to be strengthened. The treaty will make it possible to unite the efforts of the whole of society around the most important problems. We will resolve them if we manage to counter disunity and mutual antagonism with cooperation based on dialogue. Russia is in acute need of this. The preparation of the treaty is the best evidence that cooperation is not a fruitless dream but a real possibility.

This document came into being as a result of strenuous, creative work in which representatives of the president, groups in parliament, the government, leading parties, organizations, and public movements played an equal part. They expressed the interests of virtually all sections of the Russian population. They reached accord during their work. Every clause of the treaty, every line was entered only if it met with no objections, no matter from

whom. Every voice carried identical weight and was of identical significance. I have said, and let me repeat, that what has been done demonstrates that Russia does have an alternative to confrontation. We are duty-bound to defend this, duty-bound to continue the tireless search for accord, in order to emerge from the crisis, to revive the economy, and to restore order in the country.

In accordance with the Treaty on Social Accord a coordination commission is being set up. For the first time Russia will have a mechanism which will ensure that political contradictions do not reach extremes of acuteness, but can be resolved at an early stage. Russia is tired of the stream of mutual insults from various rostrums, of endless clashes in the media. We no longer want wars of words to turn into clashes on the streets and mass disturbances. Therefore, we say today that there is another way—civilized rather than destructive—of settling issues.

This is the search for accord and it should be the only one in Russia. The treaty to be signed today is only a beginning. It is hardly on all the points that we have managed to work out a common position and much work is yet ahead. In developing the treaty, appendices will be drawn up, protocols which will be more specific on separate aspects of it. I think that the general, strategic policies guiding the work are set out in the message from the president to the Federal Assembly. Our common task is to give these more substance and to implement them consistently.

Respected assembly participants, it took us many years to get to the Treaty on Social Accord. Several generations of people have come and gone. Hardly any of those who lived through the tragedy of the civil war are still alive. There was no reconciliation throughout this entire period. So, a deep wound has remained in our people and in our state.

A historic chance came to us to start a process of reconciliation and to restore consensus in the country. It will not be easy to do it. Confrontation still lives in our souls. Let us help one another to rid ourselves of it. Let us help Russia to cure itself once and for all of civil war, in the name of preserving the Fatherland and in the name of preserving peace for our children. May our combined efforts meet with success. I declare the ceremony for the signing of the Treaty on Social Accord open.

Yeltsin Closing Speech

LD2804121694 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1044 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Closing speech by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at signing ceremony of the Social Accord Treaty in the St. George's Hall of the Moscow Kremlin—live]

[Text] Esteemed participants in the assembly! The Treaty on Social Accord has become a reality in Russian life. In signing it we had only one objective: to strengthen civic peace in the country, to make the life of Russian citizens more stable and tranquil. The treaty does not harm the interests of any party, organization, or association. Each signatory, while remaining committed to his own convictions and programs, will uphold them in an honest and peaceful political struggle for the votes of the electorate.

The treaty places additional responsibilities and obligations on all those who signed it, above all on state bodies. It spells out the priority tasks which must be resolved by the president, the government, the Federal Assembly, and the bodies of power in the republics and regions. These tasks must be resolved, not separately but in close cooperation with each other, with the political and public forces of Russia.

The most important thing now is to implement the treaty which we have signed. Every one of us who has signed it and will sign it undertakes the role of guarantor of implementation of this document. I am sure that the mass media and the Russian public will undertake to monitor compliance with the treaty. But the highest guarantee of the treaty's implementation will be our practical deeds in the spirit of cooperation and mutual trust.

On behalf of those present, I invite all those for whom the idea of accord and civic peace are dear to join the Treaty on Social Accord. Today it has been signed and comes into force. With all my heart, I congratulate the participants in the assembly and the Russian citizens on this remarkable event. We will spare no effort to ensure that civic peace becomes established in Russia forever. Thank you.

Shumeyko Address

LD2804122994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1029 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Speech by Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council, at ceremony of signing the Treaty on Social Accord in the St. George's Hall of the Moscow Kremlin—live]

[Text] Esteemed Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin], Your Holiness [Aleksiy II], esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen. I am very rarely nervous in front of any audience but today I feel I am overcome by emotions. I am joining all those who regard today as an historic day. I hope that this spring day on the eve of Easter 1994 will become a truly historic milestone. Today's document, the Treaty on Social Accord, is based on accord between politicians and state and public figures. But I hope that this treaty is not for politicians, public figures, or the state. I hope that this treaty, which was signed today, is for ordinary people, Russians, and the entire people because it is ordinary people who are most of all fed up with the political battles which have been going on for the last five years, tormenting our society, and precluding Russia from working calmly for the benefit of ordinary people. In their every speech politicians are

saying that they express the interests of these people. As a participant in the legislative process of the past years I can tell you in all openness that this document is of enormous importance for us, legislators, for the upper chamber, the Federation Council, and, I hope, for the State Duma.

I know that in the past many laws were political in nature. I know that many Russian laws were adopted to suit specific political groups, to suit whichever faction was on top. Laws were adopted for the benefit of specific individuals or to spite specific individuals. This is the personification of laws. The worst thing that happens with legislation is when laws are passed for transient political purposes. I hope that this Treaty on Public Accord will give us, legislators, an opportunity to produce laws which are acceptable to our people, so that these laws really are geared to the development of our state.

We must all think first and foremost of our citizens. This Treaty will make it possible for legislators to become legislators in the true meaning of the word and to stop adopting laws amid political battles because we all have been elected by the people and whoever has been elected by the people, whatever political party, group, or public movement he belongs to, has been elected by the people and has the right to have his say by adopting a law while relying on his electorate.

So, the historic nature of this document has many aspects. Perhaps it is difficult for us to appreciate this today, at the moment of signing. Only after some time has passed will people understand what accord Russia has attained today. And I hope that, although signed only for a period of two years, it will become the basis of accord in the Russian Federation in general, an accord to bring together our citizens, and to urge us toward integration and maximum possible rapprochement of what is today called the Commonwealth of Independent States.

I would like to say again that I hope this document will become an historic one. Thank you.

Nonsignatories Noted

LD2804122394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1137 GMT 28 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Tamara Zamyatina and Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr—Vyacheslav Kostikov, press secretary of the Russian president, has described the signing of the Treaty on Social Accord as "a very major event in the history of Russia."

The treaty "has become a reality," "Russia has entered a new political and historical dimension, and the foundations for the civilized existence of a civil society have been laid," he told journalists after the treaty signing ceremony.

The press secretary said: "Only three people did not sign the treaty. They were Mr. Zyuganov, the leader of the Communist faction; Mr. Vinogradov, chairman of the Vladimir Oblast Soviet; and Mr. Tuleyev, chairman of the Kemerovo Oblast Soviet."

Reportage on Civic Accord Debate

Zhirinovskiy To Decide on Signing

LD2604173694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1711 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—The State Duma faction of the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] ruled on Tuesday that its leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy will personally take a decision whether to sign or not the memorandum on civic peace and accord on behalf of the faction.

The main argument in favour of this rather unusual decision was that Zhirinovskiy's "intuition has never let him down in such cases".

In turn, Zhirinovskiy said that he will take the final decision on Thursday morning (the date scheduled for a ceremony of signing the accord) "maybe after consulting" his party leadership.

The LDPR faction expressed doubt that Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin has the right to sign the memorandum on behalf of the lower chamber of the Russian Parliament. The faction is going to submit their doubts for Duma's consideration on Wednesday.

Centrist Bloc Against Agreement

LD2604175794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The Centrist Bloc of Political Parties and Movements headed by Vladimir Voronin has made a statement against signing the Agreement on Civil Accord.

In the statement published Tuesday, the bloc pointed out that the president and those close to him needed civil accord for the sole purpose of "doing away with any possibility for society to criticize the official line and therefore allow those who have been granted access to power in any way, but demonstrated their complete incapacity for managing a great country, to remain in power for at least another couple of years, maybe more."

The bloc believes civil accord could be achieved through early presidential elections and forming a new government.

The bloc called on all political parties and movements, "healthy forces" in all branches of power and the people to support early presidential elections and other related social and state reforms.

On the same day, the bloc proposed the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Aleksiy II call on the people to refrain from any political activities on Easter day, May 1.

Yeltsin Aide Against Changes

LD2604195994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Russian presidential aide Georgiy Satarov in an interview with Interfax on Tuesday spoke against the transformation of the treaty on civil accord from a political document into a judicial one.

In particular, he considers it inexpedient to hold a referendum or a plebiscite on the treaty, as well as its adoption as a federal law. In his opinion, responsibility for non-observance of the agreement should be more of a moral character. In this connection, Satarov pointed out the role of media as one of the most effective controllers of the treaty's implementation by the sides.

Satarov suggested that relations between those who will sign the document on April 28 and "non-signatories" will be built "normally." To prove his viewpoint he cited an episode during the recent meeting between Boris Yeltsin and leaders of the factions; when reacting to sharp criticism of the draft by a Yabloko representative Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, the president said: "Whatever you say about the agreement, we will still be friends."

"The non-signing of the treaty does not mean discrimination against nonaligned public organizations," Satarov pointed out. Otherwise, he said, "the idea of civil accord itself would be discredited."

Satarov noted that the process of civil reconciliation should not be exhausted with the conclusion of the treaty. He considers the mechanism for the solution of concrete problems as the most important issue in the document. Satarov has in view one of the functions of the conciliatory commission, to be created under the treaty, which will organize roundtable meetings and working groups on various issues.

The presidential aide said that "according to latest reports" about 220 people had been invited to the ceremony of signing the civil accord treaty on Thursday.

Trade Union Officials Comment

MK2704101094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 2

[Andrey Nikolayev report under the "Trade Unions" rubric: "FITUR Ready To Sign Memorandum on Accord, But Demands Some Additions to it"]

[Text] Stanislav Kramarenko, adviser to the chairman of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR], told your SEGODNYA correspondent yesterday about the Federation leaders' intention to sign the memorandum on accord. According to Stanislav Kramarenko, FITUR political leaders find themselves "in a difficult situation" because they are getting numerous cables and letters from primary trade union organizations in which the signing of the memorandum "is hedged" with the most varied demands. In a number of trade union organizations, the adviser thinks, the "civic accord" notion is interpreted as "accord in the area of a single approach to economic reforms," although it implies a treaty of principles between public and political organizations on the existence together with power structures without a rigid standoff and upheavals.

In this situation, according to the adviser, the FITUR political leadership proceeds from the fact that trade unions are supposed to state their readiness to conduct with the current president, government, Federal Assembly, the State Duma, as well as with the other participants in the agreement, a constructive dialogue on a platform of civic accord. The FITUR leadership also believes that "the most important interests of working people can be protected only within the framework of a powerful state," the adviser stated.

At the same time, Stanislav Kramarenko underscored that the agreement "should not be signed at the expense of working people's interests." For his part, FITUR Chairman Mikhail Shmakov passed on the main remarks and proposals to Boris Topornin, chairman of the public chamber under the president, and, during a recent meeting with Boris Yeltsin confirmed, the need for their inclusion in the text of the memorandum. Among these proposals, perhaps the main ones are to ensure the implementation of the principles of social partnership detailed in the General Agreement between the trade unions, employers, and the government; to follow an active social policy aimed at "stabilization and subsequent raising of people's living standards; adapting the able-bodied population to new economic conditions..."

If these proposals go through, Stanislav Kramarenko thinks, FITUR-member trade unions would fundamentally have no special remarks to make about the other sections of the memorandum. Besides, "in a bid to strike off many existing trade union demands" the federation leaders insist on the inclusion in the text of the agreement, in the item on pledges by trade unions and their amalgamations, "not to hold and not to participate in organizing strikes aimed at redistributing budget funds," an amendment—"after the budget has been approved." Virtually all Federation trade unions now vigorously uphold this amendment because in this case they reserve the right to collective actions, including strikes, before the budget has been approved.

According to a FITUR information and analysis center report, the Federation General Council's executive committee made a decision late last night "to form a delegation for the signing of the memorandum."

Filatov Comments

MK2704111094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 17, 24 Apr-1 May 94 (Signed to press 26 Apr) p A5

[Article by Sergey Filatov, Russian presidential administration chief: "Who Is Unhappy with Civic Peace"]

[Text] It would seem that the idea of national conciliation should be welcomed by all. It has been welcomed, in a word. As soon as negotiations began on a possible agreement, however, it emerged that representatives of various political forces will find it rather difficult to come to terms on this score. To be sure, immediately voices began to be heard: "What is the point of launching this burdensome undertaking in the first place?" Indeed, is it impossible to pursue reform without a civic accord agreement? Of course, it is not. Yet is it necessary to prove how much more difficult this will be in the conditions of confrontation and political hysteria and without a mechanism for coordinating social interests?

In my opinion, we have had our share of such difficulties and can now sum up the results. The reforms have been moving not dynamically and consistently enough primarily owing to political instability. Hence the forced deviations from reform in the sphere of economics, the wary attitude by Western investors, the inefficiency of some power institutions, and many other things. It is specially dangerous that not only politicians have found themselves on different sides of the barricades, but that society itself has begun to divide into conflicting camps. Do we have the right to pass up the opportunity to pacify society and provide it peaceful living conditions?

This chance, I am sure, exists today. Parliamentary elections have been held; there are two years to go before presidential elections; a new constitution has been adopted and put into effect; the Federal Assembly is beginning to function in a steady rhythm....

Yet all of this, alas, against the backdrop of an economic and social crisis. But if we unleash a war of public rallies and provoke a wave of strikes, will bread become cheaper or will pensioners enjoy better living standards?

Yes, the process of preparing and signing the accord—and this is precisely a process—will not be easy. Its implementation will be still more difficult. Yet the way work on the document has been proceeding in the past few days shows that the efforts by all the sides concerned are not in vain.

It will be recalled that the first version of the accord, prepared by a working group, aroused serious objections in the course of discussion in the Public Chamber. Some thought that the document should describe in detail which principles should underlie economic policy and specifically how reform will develop. No question: It would be good to agree on this.... Yet, after all, our task is to ensure the broadest possible circle of parties to the agreement, attracting sensible political figures of all orientations. This is why the conciliation pact is of a fairly general character.

Yet even the most general formulas did not come about easily. Some thought the accord was too rigid; others, on the contrary, considered it too vague.... Yes, this has been a process of mutual concessions and search for conciliatory formulas and compromise; and how can it possibly be otherwise?

Here is just one example. The original version envisioned sanctions in the event of a violation of the accord's provisions by one of the sides. In particular, the Conciliation Commission was to be granted the right to initiate the question of excluding the corresponding participant from among the signatories or to move proposals on measures of political responsibility, including the dismissal of "transgressors" from leading positions and stripping them of deputy status. Later on we abandoned such a rigid approach, and this immediately allowed the range of the agreement's supporters to be broadened.

Nonetheless, even today the document contains several provisions which are evoking sharp disagreement by a number of opposition movements. This is primarily the point obligating all sides to refrain from demands to introduce such amendments into the Constitution which could destabilize the situation in society. Or the obligation not to initiate political campaigns with the aim of holding early elections to federal power bodies. But here, in my opinion, lies the line which cannot be passed in the search for compromise. If we renounce these provisions, the document—even if signed by all the participants in the political process without exception—will be nothing more than a mere declaration.

Is there a danger that not all opposition parties will sign the agreement of public accord? To be sure, there is. But I would not regard this prospect as tragic. There is one circumstance which, in my view, should compel all sensible politicians sooner or later to put their signatures under this document. Possibly, with their remarks and qualifications (it will be recalled that the agreement is open to accession at any time). It is hardly likely that the president's most principled opponents will want to stay aside from the process of reconciling social interests and elaborating a coordinated policy. And in this sense the agreement will be just a starting point. It will set in motion a mechanism that will be in operation for the next two years: conferences, "roundtables," and temporary working groups with representatives of parties to the agreement.

As for those who will not want to conduct a peaceful dialogue.... Well, society must know the names of these leaders and the parties they represent. I think that this will also be useful: It should not be forgotten that not so much time is left before the next presidential elections.

Local Administration Heads Comment

PM2704122794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Price of Signature Is Civil Peace. Process of Signing Document on Public Accord Begins in Kremlin Tomorrow"]

[Text] Kursk Oblast Administration Head Vasiliy Shuteyev:

Let me say straightaway that as head of the administration of a Federation component I will certainly sign the draft "peace" agreement proposed by the president.

Needless to say, the text needs some adjustments and we will obviously do that during the discussion. But this is purely a question of editing: Some provisions that do not duplicate the constitution can be expanded, while some can be shortened; however, it is not the details that should be primarily worrying us today but the essence, objectives, and positive qualities of the document. And the essence of the document is that the signatories are making the appropriate commitments, aware that Russia has no future without the agreement.

Khabarovsk Kray Administration Head Viktor Ishayev:

Everyone has gotten well and truly sick of the constant wrangling in our society and I think that the Federation components will favor consolidation in any form. The agreement on civil accord is essential. And we have already said that it must be signed.

We, the people of the Far East, are most concerned about the economic basis for consolidation. Local administration heads believe that the unequal economic conditions both between the territories themselves and in relations with the government that exist for instance for krays, oblasts, and republics within Russia may become an unpopular political factor. Khabarovsk Kray, which borders on Yakutia for instance, is cannot help seeing that the latter receives privileges from the center. Yet we have exactly the same problems. And we too are an equal Federation component. So let us create equal conditions for all.

Bryansk Oblast Administration Head Vladimir Karpov:

Along with the other administration heads, I signed an appeal to political parties and movements following the meeting with the president. Accord is vitally necessary in Russia today. I am convinced that the country has no future unless reforms are continued, the norms of a civil society are established, and economic and political stability are ensured. The tasks facing society are too complex to waste effort on political confrontation and continue the protracted political games.

A compromise is possible and necessary. Everyone merely has to be able to get over their arrogance in order to rescue the country and cast aside their political passions and ambitions.

Novosibirsk Mayor Viktor Tolokonskiy:

I think that most people of Novosibirsk fully understand the need for the civil accord that the Russian president has proposed. But at the same time many people are worried that the conclusion of this agreement might prolong the state of apathy and inactivity in the parliament and government. And I think that the proposed form of civil peace and accord should also be a pledge for all its signatories at once to get down in earnest to effective work to extricate the country from crisis.

Yeltsin Aide Comments on Communists

LD2604124794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] President Yeltsin's aide Georgiy Satarov sees the rejection, by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, of the agreement on civic accord as a sign of inconsistency. In an interview with INTERFAX Satarov accused Communist leader Gennadiy Ziuganov of failing to voice his objections to the agreement at the April 22 meeting between Boris Yeltsin and the leaders of the parliamentary factions. Ziuganov rejected the agreement at a party conference last Saturday.

Satarov said that at the April 22 meeting Ziuganov came out with a number of constructive suggestions which were taken into consideration by the authors of the agreement.

Later Ziuganov said that the agreement aimed to perpetuate the negative tendencies which led to the destabilization of society and Russian state structures. Satarov saw his statement as a clear-cut attempt to call white - black.

In Satarov's view, the agreement aimed to promote social accord and civic stability. And, he said, the document was phrased by a working group which brought together representatives of all parliamentary factions, including the Communists and Agrarians, meaning, according to Satarov, that their criticism of the agreement backfires on themselves.

Satarov failed to understand what Ziuganov meant by calling for sweeping changes in the social and economic policies and describing the civic accord agreement an ultimatum to the opposition. What Ziuganov said was something on the order of an ultimatum rather than a call for accord, Satarov said.

Satarov was confident that in spite of the negative moves by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the YaBloko grouping and some other organizations, the country's leading social and political forces would voice approval of the agreement on April 28.

Bank Association To Sign

LD2604135394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 26 Aapr 94

[Text] The Association of Russian Banks has given its support to Boris Yeltsin's initiative to sign an agreement on civil peace. BUSINESS-TASS reports that the document will be signed by Sergey Yegorov, president of the association.

A statement issued by the management of the Association of Russian Banks says that it will be impossible to solve any serious problems of either economic or social transformations in Russia without guarantees of a political stability in the society, and without the support of a growing civil peace.

CPRF Conference Adopts Theses

PM2604134994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Before Signing Your Autograph"]

[Text] Some crucial documents were adopted at a conference of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] held last weekend. They include the theses "The CPRF on the Path to Accord for Russia's Sake." They say: Formulating a tactical task, the CPRF proceeds from the premise that it is insufficient to put forward general program aims, whose full implementation is only possible when the people of labor come to power—there must be a plan for specific actions.

The CPRF believes that preserving civil peace and strengthening it on the basis of switching to a socialist method of development are vital conditions for averting a national-state disaster.

To this end, the CPRF proposes:

—to form a broad coalition of left-wing, centrist, patriotic, and popular-democratic forces capable of neutralizing, and then politically, economically, and morally isolating, the "party of civil war";

—to bring the coalition to power as the result of victory at elections or another peaceful, non-violent method.

The CPRF realizes that achieving civil peace is not a one-shot act of signing some kind of solemn statement, it is not a declaration, but a package of steps which are perceptible in a practical sense and are primarily aimed at eliminating specific sources of civil confrontation. Today these sources, "risk factors" of a kind, include the sharp property stratification against the backdrop of an unrestrainable fall in production and inflationary processes, and the violation of the workers' socioeconomic rights.

The Communists are prepared to propose a package of measures to reestablish legality in the country.

The Communists see a change in the socioeconomic course as another very important precondition for reestablishing civil peace. A full program for the economic improvement of the situation in the country and a way out of the crisis may be agreed only through the joint efforts of all interested parties.

But a number of measures will brook no delay. These include:

—putting a stop to the plundering privatization, checking the legality and economic expediency of all deals which have already been concluded, and clarifying the origins of the capital invested in privatization;

—making legislative provision for the most important rights of working collectives to own and use national property and to choose specific forms of destatization where this is economically justified, and banning interference in the economic life of enterprises in collective-group forms of ownership, particularly in the agro-industrial complex;

—recompensing the losses borne by citizens and economic organizations as a result of the "shock therapy," and finding ways of settling the nonpayments crisis, eliminating debts in wages, and indexing savings deposits, and indeed not by means of an extra emission but by freezing illegally accumulated capitals.

Russia's Choice Has Doubts

LD2604143094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1339 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The Russia's Choice faction has doubts in terms of the signing of the agreement on civic accord. At the special meeting on Tuesday the faction discussed the draft statement which says that on April 25 the president's administration agreed to groundless concessions to the separatist tendancies of regional elites, by excluding from the text the unconditional priority of the Constitution of the Russian Federation over the constitutions of the Federation's constituent members. In view of this, the faction said that this violated the will of the people of Russia who voted on December 12, 1993 for the Constitution of the Russian Federation. The statement says that the faction can sign the treaty without the above changes.

Faction members have proposed several wordings. Deputy Gleb Yakunin proposed to recommend that the Russian president postpone the signing ceremony before the treaty's text is fully coordinated.

The faction will make the final decision on the signing before its morning meeting on Wednesday.

Democratic Russia Calls For Postponement

LD2604143494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1340 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The Democratic Russia Movement supports public concord in Russia, however, suggests postponing the signing on civic accord from April 28 for a later date.

In an open letter to President Boris Yeltsin, the movement's leaders Lev Ponomarev and Gleb Yakunin motivate their suggestion by the fact that on the threshold of the accord's signing the newspaper IZVESTIYA carried an article with anti-constitutional calls by the LDP [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia—LDPR] leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy.

Zhirinovskiy proposes that "sovereign republics be done away with," "the sovereign presidents unwilling to transform into governors be medically examined in Moscow," that former Soviet republics reunite with Russia as provinces, and a crusade southwards to the Indian Ocean be launched.

Ponomarev and Yakunin wonder for this reason "can the presidents and leaders of the republic within the Russian Federation put their signatures on the accord next to that of Zhirinovskiy?"

They insist that Zhirinovskiy should either publicly renounce his anticonstitutional calls or be barred from signing the document.

Lukyanov Views Opposition

LD2604144594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1340 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] "Some shifts in direction for satisfying those who do not share the president's stand have been made in the draft agreement on civic accord, but these changes are quite insignificant, and they do not alter the current course fundamentally." This statement was made in an interview with INTERFAX by Anatoliy Lukyanov, member of the State Duma, who belongs to the unregistered Russian Way faction.

Lukyanov commented on a televised statement by the former vice president Aleksander Rutskoy, who said that he is willing to lead those forces opposed to the president, which refuse to sign the agreement on civic accord.

According to Lukyanov, "if, with the silent consent of Boris Yeltsin, the pro-president and pro-government press begins to harass those who refuse to sign the agreement, the authorities themselves will push them toward Rutskoy." The Yavlinskiy faction in the State Duma might also join the opposition bloc, he said.

"We are open to union with all patriotic forces with which our positions coincide to some extent," Lukyanov declared. He referred to the fact that at the December-12 referendum not only the Communists, the Agrarians and the Russian Pan-National Union, but also the Yavlinskiy bloc, stood against adopting a new constitution.

Cossack Troops Union To Sign

LD2604182594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1737 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—An official statement of the Union of Cossack Troops of Russia and Abroad signed by supreme ataman of the union Major-General V. Ratiyev and head of the union's general staff V. Kamshilov was circulated here today by the current information center of the Russian president's administration.

The statement runs as follows:

"The Union of Cossack Troops of Russia and Abroad, which unites over 15 million people living in various Russian regions, is ready to sign 'the agreement on civic accord in russia' and carry its share of responsibility for the agreement fulfilment.

"In this connection we consider inadmissible attempts of any parties, including the Agrarian Union to voice a different opinion on behalf of those who actually live and work on the land.

"We, Cossacks, can estimate ourselves the significance of the civic accord agreement for peace and tranquility on lands traditionally populated by Cossacks".

Yeltsin Meets Foreign Intelligence Service Staff

LD2704093894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0813 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Chernov]

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday visited the headquarters of the Foreign Intelligence Service (FIS) of Russia and met with its leadership and staff.

Yeltsin first visited the FIS headquarters in Yasenevo on December 26, 1991. At that time his meeting with the leading personnel of the FIS was marked by an official confirmation of academician Yevgeniy Primakov, Dr. of Science (Economics), as the FIS chief, and a call "to tackle more actively the accomplishment of current tasks".

The FIS was established by a presidential decree dated December 18, 1991. It is the successor to the former first directorate of the Soviet Union's KGB and the Central Intelligence Service of the USSR (from November to December 1991).

Speaks to Foreign Intelligence Personnel

PM2804092594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Yelena Ovcharenko and Sergey Postanogov: "President Has Visited Intelligence Service"]

[Text] Yesterday was a holiday for our intelligence agents: For the first time in the entire history of the foreign intelligence service's existence the valiant "knights of the cloak and dagger" were visited by the Russian president himself, who addressed the collective in an 800-seat auditorium at the foreign intelligence service headquarters. Actually, the audience was far bigger because his speech was transmitted on the radio communication system.

According to our information what particularly pleased the intelligence agents was the specific nature of the president's speech and his extensive acquaintance with a whole series of the foreign intelligence service's specific problems.

What was the thrust of the speech? Unemployment obviously does not threaten the foreign intelligence service staffers. As the president said, "under conditions where military budgets are being reduced, intelligence becomes a very important guarantee of security and that means that the role of the intelligence service must and will grow." "The supreme function of the foreign intelligence service," the Russian leader stressed, "is to serve Russia's national and state interests."

The president admitted that the foreign intelligence service has a high reputation in the system of Russian state power. "I believe that your operational information, analytical conclusions, and recommendations will receive only high assessments," he noted. The guest stressed that Russia will strengthen the intelligence service—that is the authorities' intention and, which is even more interesting, the president's personal understanding of this issue.

So is Yeltsin's visit to the foreign intelligence service an attempt to improve our intelligence agents' morale or an attempt to render them their due for their work? Most likely both. And it is irrelevant whether Ames was a Russian special services agent. Probably now even if you are not a specialist in the affairs of the foreign intelligence services you can imagine that the situation over Bosnia and the trouble spots in the former USSR republics require close attention and strenuous work from the intelligence service.

Concluding his speech the Russian president had a one on one meeting with the leader of the foreign intelligence service.

It is not out of the question that meetings like yesterday's will become traditional. To spite our enemies?!

Details Stance on U.S. Intelligence

LD2704142694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1352 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr—Boris Yeltsin thinks that Russia's relations with Western countries have recently radically improved and that Russia has attained the level of partnership as far as some of these countries are concerned. However, he told today's meeting with the chiefs and staffers of the foreign intelligence service, "it is now particularly important to draw a distinction between partnership and attempts to dominate or to foist on us their own actions, which run counter to Russia's interests. It is unacceptable to Russia."

Russia, stressed Boris Yeltsin, has its own view of the priorities in the foreign and domestic policies and it also has interests of its own on the international arena. This is convincingly shown in the settlement of the Bosnian crisis and Russia's activities in close neighboring countries. However, noted the president "we have recently come to see clearly that such activities by Russia do at times cause irritation." Boris Yeltsin expressed the thought that the political campaign surrounding the so-called "Ames" affair illustrates this clearly. The real motives and goals of this anti-Russian action, continued the president of Russia, have clear political overtones.

Boris Yeltsin said that American intelligence is stepping up its efforts to acquire an agent network in Russia, but U.S. special services think that the foreign intelligence service and its military colleagues from the GRU have no right to act in the same manner. "I can give assurances," said the President, "that Russia is no longer prepared to reconcile itself with this kind of discrimination. We are ready to take all the measures provided for in international law to rectify the situation."

"Russia," stressed Boris Yeltsin, "is for an equal and mutually advantageous cooperation and mutual respect, and I believe that our partners will learn to take account of our position."

Comments on Threats to Security

LD2704142894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1411 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS—The Russian Intelligence Service must be one of the leading think tanks working to stabilise the situation in the world and avert threats to the national security of the country, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said at a meeting with foreign intelligence leaders in Moscow on Wednesday.

The president said special attention should be paid to forecasting problems which Russia may face in the near future and in a long-term perspective.

Although the period of global confrontation is over and the vector of the world's development is on the whole favourable for Russia "we must remember that its direction may change," Yeltsin noted. He believes that "the world is standing at a crossroads, largely because Russia, one of the great powers, is going through the transition period."

"You should know that there are forces abroad which would like to keep Russia in the state of uncontrolled paralysis," Yeltsin continued. He stressed that "only a strong, democratic and prosperous Russian state can

become a factor which will bring the world a new perspective. It is our common task to make this goal a reality."

"The ultimate objective of foreign intelligence is to serve the state interests of Russia. We will strengthen it and promote the authority of those who work in it. This is not only the president's opinion, this is my policy," he said.

In conditions when the military budget is shrinking, the role of intelligence grows considerably and information it supplies becomes a major guarantee of the country's security, the president noted.

Yeltsin pointed out that the foreign intelligence service has a high reputation in Russia's system of power. "I hope that your prompt information, analytical conclusions and recommendations will receive only the highest marks," he said.

Rejects Global Intelligence Activities

LD2704152494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1428 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Russia is interested in stepping up the integration processes within the framework of the CIS and will strive to play a more active role in them. However, as President Boris Yeltsin stressed today at a meeting with the leadership and members of staff of the Foreign Intelligence Service, some politicians in the West regard this as proof of the revival of the former imperialist claims of Russia. In his opinion this far- fetched thesis is being used to cause an artificial exacerbation of relations among the CIS and the Baltic countries with Russia.

Rejecting the concept of "global" and "total" intelligence activity, Boris Yeltsin thinks it necessary to systematically keep track of the situation throughout the perimeter of the frontiers of Russia. In this connection, he stressed, the Foreign Intelligence Service has a crucial task to tackle—to obtain advance information on the relevant plans and intensions of the leading countries of the West with regard to Russia's neighbors, and to make timely proposals to neutralize this type of design.

Urges Intelligence Service To Provide Security

LD2704160894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1516 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Armed conflicts near Russia's borders, which in some places are threatening to spread onto its territory, represent a direct threat to the country. In this connection, Russia's President Boris Yeltsin stressed today at a meeting with the heads and employees of the Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS], that the Russian intelligence service must reveal, in good time, the moving forces behind each conflict and the opportunities for settling it by political means and by compromise.

Speaking about the intelligence service's tasks in guaranteeing the Russian Federation's national security, the president noted that the country's leaders need in-depth and accurate assessments of foreign states' approaches toward Russia and the processes occurring there. "It is important to uncover and skilfully frustrate outside attempts to influence the situation in our country," Boris Yeltsin stressed.

The president considers that the intelligence service can also make a weighty contribution toward securing Russia's economic security. In its economic interests, he continued, it is much more important to guarantee free access to other countries' markets for goods and other Russian output. Boris Yeltsin is convinced that the resolution of this problem is an important task both for foreign policy and for the intelligence service.

Russia's president also named the uncovering of organized crime links with European and American criminal clans as an important task for the FIS. Partnership links with foreign secret services may play a useful role in combating international organized crime. The FIS, Boris Yeltsin stated, "has such powers and is able to use them, as we know."

Yeltsin Chairs Newly Appointed Presidential Council

LD2604152194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1344 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—A meeting of the renovated Presidential Council has begun at the Grand Kremlin palace.

When opening the meeting, President Yeltsin introduced new members of the Presidential Council, including

- writer Viktor Astafyev,

- deputy director of the Institute for World Economy and International Relations Sergey Blagovolin,

- chairman of the Mosexpo board Oleg Kiselev,

- main scientific staffer of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of State and Law Roman Livshits,

- professor, doctor of historical sciences Aleksey Salmin,

- leader of the Independent Miners' Trade Union Aleksandr Sergeyev,

- literary critic and doctor of philological sciences Marietta Chudakova.

Bearing in mind the Presidential Council used to include mainly political scientists, representatives of Moscow and the scientific community, this time it will also have heads of regional administrations - Yuriy Luzhkov, Valeriy Kokov, Nikolay Sevryugin and Yuriy Nozhikov - among its members.

The president made no introductory speech.

No correspondents are present at the council meeting.

A day before ex-members of the Presidential Council received letters of thanks. The ex-members include:

- Gavriil Popov, who refused to sign the civic accord agreement,

- ex-Russian procurator general Aleksey Kazannik,

- Georgiy Satarov and Petr Filippov, who became staffers of the presidential administration,

- Mikhail Gefter, who quitted membership in the Presidential Council on his own wish, and others.

Press Service Views Presidential Council Meeting

LD2604162794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1603 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—A meeting of the Presidential Council was held in Kremlin today to discuss ways and methods to achieve civic accord, the presidential press service reports.

The meeting noted that the adoption of the new Russian Constitution enabled more tranquil situation in the country and signing of the agreement on civic accord may become a new step towards civic peace.

An introductory speech of President Yeltsin stressed the importance of the current level of mutual understanding between the president, the government and the Federal Assembly. The Presidential Council members basically shared this point of view but called the president's attention to the fact the State Duma has not begun the fulfilment of its major task—legislative renovation of Russia.

Speaking of acute Russian problems, council members urged the president to enhance consolidation of Russian statehood, including more tough measures against crime. Some members of the Presidential Council sharply criticized the procurator's office.

When commenting on economic issues, the meeting participants called attention to social dangers caused by the aggravated problem of non-payments and further production recession.

A number of council members expressed concern over the president's passiveness in encouragement of reforms.

Further on Duma Official's Corruption Claims

LD2604192894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] "Today we have the most corrupt government in the history of Russia," chairman of the State Duma committee on security Viktor Ilyukhin told a press conference on Tuesday (the Communist party faction). [sentence as received] In his words, "corruption is corroding the state apparatus." Ilyukhin believes that the most corrupt body is the Goskomimushchestvo (the State Property Committee), and that "the dock has long been waiting for" its chairman, vice-premier Anatoliy Chubays.

Ilyukhin said that at the beginning of the '80s, specialists estimate, 35 percent of stolen money was spent to bribe officials, now—50 percent and more. In 1993 150 major criminal organizations operated in Russia with more than 35,000 enterprises within their spheres of influence. 4,500 case of bribery were registered.

Speaking about "financial subversion against Russia", Ilyukhin said that in 1993 4,300 crimes were disclosed in the banking system. All in all, 52,000 corruption-related crimes were registered last year. Cases against 1,500 officials were opened. In his opinion, "a totally criminalized economy may develop" in Russia.

Ilyukhin also said that the security committee had prepared a draft law on fighting corruption. On May 11 it will be submitted to a plenary session of the State Duma. He noted that a new provision in the draft law is that a state official should sign a document on his income, real estate and personal property worth over 100 minimal salaries, bank deposits and securities, financial obligations, including those abroad.

Referring to the Central Electoral Commission, Ilyukhin accused Russia's Choice faction and Yabloko faction that during the election campaign they used the money received from joint ventures in violation of the Russian president's decree.

He said that Russia's Choice had received more than 300 million rubles from these joint ventures for holding the election campaign, and Yabloko—more than 30 million rubles.

Answering an Interfax question Ilyukhin said that at the next meeting the council of the State Duma will consider this issue and will obviously put it on the agenda of a plenary meeting. Ilyukhin believes that the legality of deputy mandates of the above mentioned factions "should become a subject for investigation by the mandate commission of the State Duma."

State of Emergency Approved in N. Ossetia, Ingushetia

LD2704155694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1458 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr—The Federation Council of the Russian Federation has approved the Russian president's edict on a state of emergency in North Ossetia and

Ingushetia. The chamber received the decree today and discussed it behind closed doors.

Valeriy Fateyev, chairman of the commission of deputies which worked in the zone of state of emergency, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the decree "amended the mistake made in the similar edict of 5 April, whereby four populated areas were excluded from the emergency zone." This resulted in a sharp aggravation of the crime situation in the area and victims. The president amended the edict in relation to the zone of state of emergency at the Federation Council's proposal.

The problem of the conflict, however, has not been solved, the deputy stressed, and the central authorities should change the forms of administration in that area. Fateyev and some other deputies are convinced that all executive power should rest with the federal center, that is the Russian president and a local body of power authorized by him, whereas representative bodies of power, whoever they belong to, should temporarily suspend their activity.

'Most Powerful' Long-Wave Transmitter Switched Off

LD2604181994 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The management of the All-Russian State TV and Radio Company has received notice from Energonadzor director (Pavel Sinyukov) that, because of the nonpayment of bills for power supply, from today the transmitter operating on 261 kHz on the long wave has been switched off. This is the most powerful transmitter in Russia covering the entire European part of our country.

At the technical service of our company we were told that the switch-off occurred at 1429.

Communications Ministry Comments

LD2604194394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] [Announcer Vladimir Baburin] On Tuesday we received notice from the director of the Mosenergo joint-stock company that our most powerful radio transmitter had been switched off because of unpaid bills, which, our company, just like Ostankino, is unable to pay as the state does not finance its state TV and radio companies. True, this time the power workers switched off the knife switch because the communications industries have not been paying them, whom in turn the state has also not been paying. Our correspondent Vladimir Mishnev rang Anatoliy (Batyushkin), head of the Television and Radio Broadcasting Department of the Communications Ministry:

[Begin recording] [Mishnev] Please tell us who must pay those bills.

[(Batyushkin)] The communications enterprises. It has been decided to allocate funds for paying wages only to workers in communications enterprises for the first quarter.

[Mishnev] It must be said that you do not have the money to pay the power workers.

[(Batyushkin)] None at all.

[Mishnev] And in such a situation what will happen now?

[(Batyushkin)] Eventually there will be a natural withering away.

[Mishnev] Please tell us whether the Finance Ministry is contemplating paying the arrears.

[(Batyushkin)] The Finance Ministry says the following: Bring your broadcasting amount in accordance with the money that is being allocated under the budget.

[Mishnev] So, the possibility is not ruled out that other transmitters will also be switched off?

[(Batyushkin)] According to the results of work in the first quarter, the power workers should now have switched off virtually all TV and radio broadcasting.

[Mishnev] Who is to decide whether the transmitters are to work?

[(Batyushkin)] I believe only the government. [end recording]

[Baburin] So that for the umpteenth time the prospect of reviving the old tradition of table-talk is beginning to loom before us. After all, following the radio receivers, TV sets could also be switched off. So, get ready to entertain one another by retelling Santa Barbara parts you have already watched, the others you might just not see.

Yeltsin Greets Yakutians on Republic Day

LD2604163794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1118 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 26 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—During my travels through Yakutia I was convinced many times that the main wealth of your harsh land lay not in diamonds or gold, but in your inhabitants. This was stated in greetings from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to those taking part in the Assembly of Peoples of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia). The once backward, distant, northern outpost of Russia was transformed by the persistent and concerted hard work of the Yakuts, Russians, and other peoples of Yakutia.

Today, under the difficult conditions of the transition period, economic progress and political stability in the republic depend to a great extent on prosperity in the ethnic relations sphere. Success may be achieved only by

overcoming territorial and national egoism and by demonstrating self possession, calm, mutual respect, and responsibility for the fate of our united fatherland—the Russian Federation.

Much has already been done toward creating conditions where there is a genuine equality of rights for the development of all of the peoples of Yakutia, the greetings state. Even more needs to be done. The small northern peoples—the Evens, Evenkis, and Yukagirs demand particular concern from the republican authorities.

The president congratulated the multi-ethnic people of Yakutia on their Day of the Republic.

Decree To Restore 'Historic Justice' to Yakuts

LD2704091294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0834 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin decreed to condemn political repressions agains representatives of the Yakutian people that were committed in the twenties and the thirties.

The presidential decree circulated on Wednesday, specifically, says:

In order to restore historic justice regarding representatives of the Yakutian people subjected to repressions in the autumn of 1927 in connection with the indictment on the case of the "Mladoyakut National Soviet Socialist Party of Medium and Poor Peasantry of Confederalists" and those subjected to repressions resulting from the resolution of the politburo of the central committee of the all- union communist party (bolshevik) on the situation in the Yakutian organisation of August 9, 1929, the president, in accordance with the conclusions of the presidential commissions of the Russian Federation for rehabilitaion of victims of political repressions, states that repressions regarding participants in the events of the autumn of 1927 were based on unjustified accusations and violated fundamental human rights.

Agrarian Party Central Council Plenum Held

PM2704090994 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 3

[Article by Anatoliy Sidorov under the "Frank Talk" rubric: "Where Does Our Strength Lie? Reflections on the Results of the Agrarian Party of Russia Central Council's Latest Plenum"]

[Text] The most pressing question at the plenum was the cadre question. Yes, the elections to the State Duma were a success, as were the elections to the local organs of self-government. But everyone understands perfectly that success, like lightning, never strikes in the same place twice. Thus Mikhail Lapshin, chairman of the Agrarian Party of Russia [APR], stated bluntly that without mass support the party would not get far. The time for rejoicing is over; it is time to get down to the routine donkeywork of creating primary party organizations. And the APR, alas, so far does not have a great number of them. In 20 of the 88 federation components the party has not yet been registered at all.

"Work—there is heaps of it. But what is the mood like?"

"We need the Ministry of Agriculture structures to help us to create primary party organizations. Let there be a vertical chain of command, so that the chiefs of rayon agricultural administrations join the APR themselves and give orders to their subordinates..."

"It is very difficult to act on a voluntary basis. We need full-time organizers, funding...

It is very difficult to work in this area. In nine years many rural leaders of subdepartments and farms have been infected with greed. Without them it is difficult to create primary organizations on the spot."

I deliberately do not give the names of these people who proved themselves so helpless in the most important party task—organization. This weakness is nowadays characteristic of all Russian parties. And the one which manages to cast aside ambitions and reliance on instructions from above the most quickly will win at the next elections and will continue to win thereafter. It is no accident that Aleksandr Zaveryukha, member of the APR Central Council, having heard his fill of the "valuable" conclusions cited above, said bluntly and angrily: "Our strength lies within ourselves."

You could not put it more accurately. One after another the Central Council members ascend the rostrum and say:

"An agrarian party without its own press organ is unthinkable. All its decisions, decrees, and ideas fail to reach rnak-and-file members. We must have our own news organ and seek links with the agrarian press."

As if this press is hiding from the agrarians. During the recess I tried to find out by degrees which Central Council member subscribes to which agrarian newspaper. I did not manage to find out. However much I searched while on assignments on the bare notice boards of agro-industrial complex trade union committees and rayon agricultural administrations and in offices—I have nowhere seen an agrarian newspaper. The agrarian press is nowhere to be seen either in villages or in rayon centers, let alone oblast cities. So what is the sense in newspapers publishing information about the work of the APR, if no members of the party subscribe to them or read them?! Of course, the distribution of a newspaper once again requires effort and the loss of free time, and, when it comes down to it, money. But after all, there is no other way.

Party members, for example, must engage in propaganda. Like, shall we say, explaining to rural laborers the essence of the law on bankruptcy. At the plenum this law

was rubbished by all but those who could not be bothered. But in his speech Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha objected:

"We should know this law; after all, it says that a farm which declares itself bankrupt is to be given financial injections for two years in order for it to try to get back on its feet. Then it is given the right to voluntary flotation, and much else. It would be no bad thing for some farms to seize upon this law, rather than damn it...."

Boris Chernov from Nizhniy Novgorod Oblast, speaking of the experience of land redistribution in his area, defined its results as a hopeless failure. But he said:

"To survive, we must work creatively."

But how can you work creatively, if many people do not read even the laws?! Of course, to reject them is far more simple. Yes, the reforms are punishingly difficult, but it is hight time to release that not everything in them is without rhyme or reason. Experienced rayon agricultural production leaders say that the time has come to study every farm individually, and if necessary, break them up into smaller units. Formerly it was possible to drive a tractor 20 kilometers to a field from the central farmstead for a few kopeks. Today this trip costs thousands. It was correctly observed (unfortunately, off the record) that we have not managed to forge an agrarian complex, and that, although being apparently of the same mind, each of us is in fact plowing his own furrow. All this should not only be known, but brought to the attention of the party rank and file, of the ordinary rural laborers. How is this to be done without funds, offices, or direct telephone links? It is the simplest thing in the world to dress up like a man of the people, as respectable Western congressmen do on the eve of the elections, and set off for remote villages and farms in order to help people, and your own party at the same time, in word and deed. Politics, like any other art, requires sacrifices.

Incidentally, about big-time politics.

A party which has in its ranks such cadres as State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin, Aleksandr Zaveryukha, vice premier of the Russian Federation Government, APR Chairman Mikhail Lapshin, a highly experienced manager; Aleksandr Davydov, chairman of the Agro-Industrial Complex Employees Trade Union Central Committee, an able tactician and organizer; and many others, can only be envied. After all, it was only thanks to them that the party's Central Council did not in their majority commit a fateful mistake, and did after all give their consent to the signing of the well-known "Agreement on Accord and Peace," putting forward a number of very important prior conditions which would prevent the president and the government from implementing the previous policy of the virtual destruction of the agrarian sector of the Russian economy.

"We should not try to smash through walls where there are doors," Ivan Rybkin objected to his party comrades. "The agrarian faction is one of the most respected in the Duma. And we should do everything to bequeath to agrarians a firm legislative basis. We should learn the art of compromise."

The APR Central Council's plenum was a stormy affair, characterized by disputes and searches for the truth. One would like to hope that all the conclusions drawn during the discussions will serve as a reliable foundation for the construction of a true champion of agricultural workers—the Agrarian Party of Russia.

New Right-Wing Group Established

PM2704100794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Tatyana Morozova report: "Another Center. A Right-Wing One This Time"]

[Text] Another sociopolitical patriotic movement has appeared in Russia, the "All-Russia National Right-Wing Center."

Orthodox people and nonbelievers, monarchists and supporters of other social systems, and politicians and representatives of social thought have gathered together, turning aside from private political tasks and personal interests.

"We have united with the aim of overcoming the idea instilled in the public awareness as to the apparent incompatibility of the revival of Russian national values based on Orthodox ethics and the idea of the legal and social development of society," Mikhail Astafyev, chairman of the new movement, said.

At a press conference it was noted that the demographic disaster which the Russian people are now experiencing means that within 50 years the country's population will be halved, and we will be able to talk of the historical end of Russia and an imminent geopolitical repartition of an enormous part of the world.

The center's tasks include striving to end the insulting plundering of national resources under the guise of monstrous, thieving forms of privatization. Crime, which is eating away at the economy, state structures, and the law enforcement organs, can be rooted out only by means of uncompromising emergency legislation.

Centrists Form 'People's Alliance' Party

MK2704120094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 2

[Yelena Uzbekova report under the "Party Organization" rubric: "One More Patriotic Movement Has Constituted Itself. 'People's Alliance' Is 'a Young and Powerful Party of the Ordinary People'"]

[Text] The constituent conference of the "People's Alliance" Russian patriotic movement, including such movements as the Russian Social Democratic Union

[RSDU], "Smena-New Policy," and the "Soyuz" ["Union"] electoral club, was held on 25 April. In the platform statement on the goals and objectives of the Russian patriotic movement, Sergey Glazyev and Andrey Golovin (former leader of "Smena-New Policy") pointed out that "People's Alliance" is "not a Moscow party of a mythical 'majority,'" but "a young, powerful, and energetic organization of a political center. A party of the ordinary people, who are the linchpin of vast Russia." According to Dmitriy Olshanskiy, "People's Alliance" is a party in which all political structures capable of forming a coalition are interested.

The alliance leaders see their main objective as the unification of all patriotic forces. In their view, the great political potential of "People's Alliance" members will help the party to influence the way the country is governed, and to rule the state if it wins the next elections. The "People's Alliance's" program of political and economic reform in Russia confirms the seriousness of its founders' ambitions.

The conference approved the Russian patriotic movement's charter unanimously and without any amendments, just as they adopted a program statement, which was only required to be finalized by the political council. The conference also elected a political council made up of 14 members. Also unanimously, "People's Alliance" elected its cochairmen—Andrey Golovin and Dmitriy Olshanskiy.

As stated at the conference, "People's Alliance" has already set up 10 regional branches. The constituent conference of the "People's Alliance" Russian Movement was scheduled for June.

Russia Ready for Negotiations With Chechnya

LD2704141294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian delegation is ready for negotiations with Chechnya and has the appropriate authority for this, Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray declared in his interview with Interfax. "Russia is going to hold the negotiations without any ultimatums or preliminary conditions but with a precise political position," he emphasized.

In his opinion, a single position with respect to Chechnya among Russia's supreme echelons of power is an important premise for a success.

As Shakhray underlined, "Moscow intends to hold consultations with all real political forces and power bodies in Chechnya and then to precisely fix a draft agreement on the division of authorities and the subject of these consultations, then it intends to start negotiations and preparation of a draft agreement just after the State Duma adopts a corresponding decision." Shakhray said that it will be necessary to sign the agreement only after democratic free elections in Chechnya.

Russia will use a similar mechanism as that used with Tatarstan to achieve agreement at the negotiations. To quote Shakhray that mechanism was "when we first of all searched for concrete authorities in various spheres, in transport, oil processing, agrarian sector, border defense, etc., and then included the reached agreements into a political formula on relations."

Kazannik Claims Overt Dictatorship on the Way

PM2604120794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Viktor Trushkov report: "Assent to...Dictatorship? Russian Federation Former General Prosecutor A. Kazannik Warns That Russia Is Threatened by a Regime of Personal Power"]

[Text] Sergey Filatov has played a deadly trump card against any ill-wishers. The head of the presidential administration bombastically pronounced: "No power which seeks dictatorship will bother about accord in society." It turned out a ringing phrase, but.... The ideal option for a dictator is one whereby he secures assent to dictatorship.

But why did the president's trusty henchman suddenly start speaking about dictatorship just before the signing of the "Social Accord Contract"? Because the closer the "fateful" date comes, the more acutely the question arises: Who is to agree with whom? PRAVDA has already advanced the assumption that it is a pact between mice and the cat which is chasing them. But Aleksey Kazannik, Russian Federation former general prosecutor, has made a still more definite assessment of the situation: Overt dictatorship is approaching in Russia. He declared this at the height of the talk of civil peace and social accord. Here is a dictaphone recording of his reply to the "Novosti-plyus" television program:

"I believe that you do not have to have the wisdom of Solomon but simply analyze the state of the president's team and the dynamics of its development in order to arrive at definite conclusions. The first such reason is that the president's whole team, so I have become convinced, has been formed not according to professional and personal qualities but only on principles of personal devotion. Therefore these people are essentially privy to a compact or, if you like, even a conspiracy.

"Second reason: Since these people have been selected on such principles, it goes without saying that a certain stable grouping has taken shape. They were closely welded together—I would even say fused together—by the blood of the events of October 1993. These people really are as thick as thieves.

"Third: I have become convinced that the bulk of these people are professionally incompetent. They cannot work with their head and evidently consider it shameful to work with their hands. Therefore they hold on to the president, as bus passengers hold on to the handrails to stop themselves falling.

"Fourth, the president has already subordinated to himself all the power structures—the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Federal Counterintelligence Service, the Security Administration, the Ministry of Defense, a number of other services....

"The president and his entourage frequently violate the Constitution, laws, and State Duma and Federation Council decrees. All these factors taken together have enabled me to conclude that overt dictatorship is approaching."

The warning is so serious that it must make any politician think before he ventures to sign a document which openly curtails citizens' democratic rights and restricts the operation of the Constitution. But Russians had already guessed that which Professor A. Kazannik has proved in a logical and well reasoned manner. As public opinion poll data attest, only one-fifth of our fellow citizens believe that Russia is governed by democrats, while more than half of those polled are sure that there is now undemocratic administration of the country.

Incidentally, in an attempt to refute the ex-prosecutor's statement the head of the Russian Federation president's administration has virtually...confirmed it. First, S. Filatov admitted that "the presidential team is selected by the president, who proceeds, inter alia, from personal likes." Second, he confirmed that "the power structures were under the president before the events, and they are under the president now."

So what is the presidential team imposing on the country—social accord or assent to...dictatorship?

Second 'Working Russia' Congress Held 23 Apr

PM2604130594 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 1

[Nadezhda Garifullina report: "'Working Russia' Movement. Wages for the Workers, and the Sack for the Bureaucrats"]

[Text] About 200 delegates from 37 oblasts, 6 republics, and 2 krays, as well as 175 delegates of the "Working Capital" congress from Moscow and the Moscow region, participated in the Second Congress of the "Working Russia" All-Russia Sociopolitical Movement, which took place 23 April in the city of Reutovo, Moscow Oblast. Viktor Anpilov's report "On the Socioeconomic Situation in Russia," the coreports by well-known scientists Boris Khorev and Aleksey Sergeyev, and the delegates' speeches noted that further enforced capitalization of the country will exacerbate the crisis, compound the already desperate situation in which the workers find themselves, and turn Russia into a colony of the developed capitalist countries.

The congress expressed an unequivocal view: Only a complete change of the country's political and economic policy and the restoration of workers' power from top to bottom in the shape of soviets will extricate society from the crisis.

"Working Russia" has always been against private property and the implementation of the predatory privatization program which has brought poverty, unemployment, and social inequality to the majority of the working people. Each increase in the percentage of the country's unemployed should be matched by an identical reduction in Russia's administrative apparatus, which has increased greatly and exceeds the number of administrators in the whole of the Soviet Union's structures, the delegates said. Another slogan which was ardently supported was: "Wages for the workers, the sack for the president and the bureaucrats!"

The congress adopted a package of documents, having confirmed its policy to organize a general political strike in Russia. Advocating peace and stability in society, the delegates demanded that the powers that be respect existing laws and that President Yeltsin be dismissed immediately. A public committee to investigate the tragedy of 3-4 October was formed and Russian People's Deputy Yuriy Slobodkin will head it.

The congress supported the "Working Capital's" decision to nominate Viktor Anpilov as a Russian presidential candidate. Anpilov himself is categorically against the institution of the presidency which is incompatible with true democracy, and is joining the battle for the post of president with the sole aim of abolishing the institution of the presidency which is hateful to the people and bringing back the soviets of working people as his very first act if he is elected.

Oleg Shenin, chairman of the Union of Communist Parties-CPSU Council Political Executive Committee; Timo Lahdenmaeki, chairman of the Finnish Communist Workers Party; Eric Trevet, general secretary of the new Communist Party of England; Yeoryios Mavrikos, member of the Communist Party of Greece Central Committee, Sergio Rubens, member of the Brazilian "8 October" Revolutionary Movement Coordination Committee; Bill Doris, member of the U.S. Workers' World Party Central Committee; and others ardently welcomed "Working Russia's" heroic struggle to resurrect the Soviet Union, socialism, and Soviet power.

"Working Russia" called on all working people to hold a May Day demonstration under the slogans: "Authorities Without Criminals," "Life Without Speculators," "Stable Prices," and "Unity of the USSR's Peoples."

Government Said To Decree National Census in 1999

MK2604115094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Hold the Front Page!" column: "Authorities Try To See How Many of Us Still Remain"]

[Text] The Russian Government has decreed to hold in 1999 an all-Russia census. The need for such a count has arisen owing to the country's deteriorating demographic situation (climbing death rate, and so on), as well as to the increased number of refugees and the homeless. Proceeding from the census' results the government is going to draw up some specific plans to improve the living in the country.

Conference of Newspaper Editors Opens

LD2604172594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1107 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Apr—A mechanism of state protectionism and other problems of the mass information media is the main topic of the two-day conference of editors of Russia's national and regional newspapers, which opened at the Russian Committee for the Press today. Participants are to examine a number of draft laws related, inter alia, to preferential taxation of the media.

The press' economic situation is a political issue, said Boris Mironov, chairman of the committee, opening the conference. He explained the great importance of the presence of a large number of regional representatives at this "briefing" by the fact that it is precisely the Russian province that becomes the center of economic reforms today. Mironov spoke about obstacles in the way toward adopting a decision on state protectionism of the press. Thus, leaders of the Economics Ministry and the Finance Ministry claim that this document will create "a dangerous precedent."

Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Information Policy and Communications spoke about the committee's work. He asked to back the committee in adopting a law that forbids any power structures setting up mass information media.

This time "the top statesmen" showed unprecedented attention to "the fourth estate." Today, Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Government, will meet participants in the conference at the White House. This will be his first meeting with representatives of the regional press. Also, Vladimir Shumeyko, Anatoliy Chubays, and Vyacheslav Kostikov are expected to address the conference.

Chernomyrdin Issues Directive on Subsidizing Press

LD2704134194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1232 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondentr Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, April 27 (TASS)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin made a decision and issue directives on a state subsidy of 110,400 million roubles to Russian newspapers before the end of 1994. This decision was adopted at the prime minister's meeting with a large group of editors of national and regional newspapers on Tuesday afternoon, Valentin Sergeyev, chief of the press office of the Russian Government, told ITAR-TASS.

It was also agreed at the meeting that the distribution of state subsidies will be made by a public council formed of heads of central and local media at the Russian committee on the press.

During the meeting there was a thorough discussion of the situation and problems of the central and regional press, the need for financial support for most publications, particularly in the economically weak regions, Sergeyev said. The fundamental provisions of the draft Russian law on state protection for the media were also discussed. Chernomyrdin described to chief editors in detail the economic situation in the country and the government's cardinal measures for economic stabilisation.

Commenting on the results of the meeting, Sergeyev said he believes that during the conversation chief editors received the maximum of information they need in their daily work and for grasping the actual situation in the country. This enabled them to revise the viewpoint about the alleged lack of understanding in the government for problems of the press. "I believe editors got convinced that the goverment regards the press not only as the 'fourth power' but also as branch number one, the situation in which should always be given close attention", Sergeyev said.

Economic Issues

Gazprom To Be Privatized Without Certain Funds

MK2704121094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 1

[Rustam Narzikulov report under the "Privatization" rubric: "'Gazprom' Up for Grabs at Auction. Check Investment Funds To Be Banned From Taking Part in the Privatization of Russia's Largest Company"]

[Text] The Russian Federal Property Fund has announced the commencement of accepting applications to take part in a check auction to sell the Gazprom Russian joint-stock company. The applications will be accepted from 25 April to 1 May.

At yesterday's press conference devoted to the event, State Property Committee Chairman Anatoliy Chubays called the privatization of Gazprom "an absolutely unprecedented event," because, according to his estimates, the auction will absorb at least 20 million privatization checks, that is, at least 13 percent of their total number. Some 40 percent of Gazprom's total number of shares will be kept by the state for three years. Around 34 percent of the stock will be offered for sale at check

auctions; 10 percent will be bought by Gazprom at face value; 15 percent will be sold under closed subscription to the Gazprom joint-stock company's workers collectives; and the remaining around 1 percent of shares will be owned by the "Rosstroygazifikatsiya" gas distribution company. A noteworthy feature of the company's privatization is that around one-fourth of all shares will be sold in Tyumen Oblast. The shares of other Russian oblasts range from 1 to 4 percent.

The State Property Committee chairman pointed out in the press conference that check investment funds will be banned from taking part in the check auction to sell Gazprom stock, because, Anatoliy Chubays stressed, there are plenty of other attractive targets for the funds' activity. Regarding the possible profitability of Gazprom stock and possible dividends for future shareholders, Rem Vyakhirev, chairman of the company's board, said that he did not expect large percentages, because the shareholders' main advantage would be the growth in the shares' market value.

Quarterly Economic Forecasting Instituted

PM2604151794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 94 First Edition p 4

[Untitled Directive No. 535-r of the Russian Federation Government dated Moscow, 22 April 1994 and signed by O. Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government]

[Text] 1. It is to be deemed expedient, starting with the third quarter of 1994, to formulate forecasts of the Russian Federation's socioeconomic development for the quarter with due regard for the developing situation.

2. The following procedure for preparing forecasts is prescribed:

The Russian State Committee for Statistics is to submit to the Russian Ministry of the Economy, 15 days before the start of each quarter, the results of Russia's socioeconomic development over the previous two months of the [preceding] quarter and an assessment of the development for the [preceding] quarter as a whole;

within the same deadline the Russian Ministry of Finance is to submit to the Russian Ministry of the Economy a short-term forecast of macroeconomic (financial) indicators of development for the next quarter and budget indicators, as well as the results of implementing the federal budget during the preceding quarter;

the Russian Ministry of the Economy is to submit to the Russian Federation Government, before the first day of the first month of each quarter, an assessment of Russia's socioeconomic development during the previous quarter and versions of a forecast of Russia's socioeconomic development during the next quarter, the assessment and versions having been agreed with the Russian Ministry of Finance and the Russian State Committee for Statistics.

3. The Russian Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Ministry of Finance, and the Russian State Committee for Statistics are to agree the structure of the quarterly indicators of the assessments and forecast of Russia's socioeconomic development.

4. The Bank of Russia is to be instructed to participate in compiling the forecast by ensuring that bank information and its forecast assessments are submitted within the times laid down in this directive.
[signed] O. Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government.

Finance Minister Says No Tax on Foreign Investments

LD2704122494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow April 27 Tass—Foreign investments in Russia will not be liable to a 23 per cent tax, Russian Acting Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin told Business-Tass on Wednesday.

"Foreign investments in the form of finances allocated to joint ventures created on the Russian territory or in the form of payment by foreign legal entities and private individuals for acquired securities of Russian enterprises, as well as loans and credits granted by foreign banks and credit institutions should not be liable to the value added (20 per cent) tax and the special (3 per cent) tax", Dubinin said in an official statement.

"Not subject to taxation are finances granted on a free basis by foreign states to Russian enterprises and organisations in the form of subsidies for implementing goal-oriented programmes", he added.

According to acting legislation, the turnover taxable by VAT and the special tax includes finances received from other enterprises and organisations, Dubinin said adding that excluded from them are contributions by founders to the authorized capital and sums used for joint activities. Free from VAT and the special tax are transactions on issuing and transferring loans, as well as operations connected with the circulation of securities (shares, bonds, certificates, bills of exchange, etc), according to the minister.

Agricultural Producers Reject State Intervention

MK2604120094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 4

[Unattributed report in the "In Brief" column: "The Agro-Industrial Complex Resists Zaveryukha"]

[Text] The Russian Government intends to "intensify this year the reformation of agricultural enterprises and elaborate procedures for their bankruptcy." This was announced to INTERFAX by Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha.

According to him, agricultural production in the country's agrarian sector has fallen 13 percent in the first quarter of this year, and "it has proved impossible so far" to stabilize it. More than 30 percent of kolkhozes and sovkhozes, joint-stock companies, and other collective agricultural enterprises, according to the vice premier, "are not earning enough even to pay their employees."

At the same time, A. Zaveryukha noted, any attempt by the government "not even to recommend but simply approve a particular approach to reform—be that the Nizhniy Novgorod or Moscow option of disaggregation [razukrupneniye]"—meets with resistance from agro-industrial complex leaders.

Prices Up 141.5 Per Cent on Dec 1993

PM2704125194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Untitled Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics report under the "Official" rubric]

[Text] The consumer price index for the first quarter of 1994 (March 1994 relative to December 1993) for a "basket" of goods and services, excluding nonessential goods, calculated in accordance with the Russian Federation Law "On the Indexation of Monetary Incomes and Savings of Citizens in the RSFSR," dated 24 October, 1991, was 141.5 percent, which breaks down in percentage terms in relation to the preceding month as follows: January 117.4 percent, February 111.2 percent, March 108.4 percent.

The consolidated consumer price index, including nonessential goods, for the first quarter of 1994 was 140.2 percent.

Finance Ministry Spurns New Tax Proposals

MK2604095094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Mikhail Lantsman report under the "Fiscal Matters" rubric: "Taxes Will Not Be Cut in Russia Until Economy Becomes Economical"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Chamber of Commerce and Industry [CCI] will hold a series of "roundtables" this week to discuss tax legislation and possible ways of reforming it. Yesterday, chiefs of enterprises, unions, and associations of entrepreneurs who assembled at the CCI congress center had a chance to learn the government's view on this burning question.

Even earlier, the CCI information-analytical service conducted a poll among its 4,000 members on whether the government's taxation policy helps to boost production. A total of 96 percent of those polled said "No." Bending to the sentiments of the Chamber's members, CCI specialists have drawn up draft amendments to the current taxation system. Describing the current taxation system as unwieldy and inefficient because it gives rise to unbearable tax pressure, the specialists have suggested that taxation be adjusted so as to bring it in line with world prices—the number of taxes, duties, and payments should be cut by merging them, and upper limits for profit tax rates should be established at 30-35 percent and 15-20 percent for small businesses.

Meanwhile, Aleksandr Ivaneyev, chief of the Finance Ministry taxation reform department, who also spoke at the meeting, said that the Finance Ministry categorically opposes any revision of the taxation system. "Until the state cuts budget expenditures, any reduction in the tax burden is out of the question," the Finance Ministry's representative explained to interested businessmen.

According to Mr. Ivaneyev, the current tax legislation is in perfect conformity with the country's economic situation. Mr. Ivaneyev conceded that taxes do not play as important a role in economic regulation as they do in developed countries, and a reduction, say, in value-added tax will not spark production growth. The main regulator is still the tax of inflation.

"The state's grabbing reflex has not weakened yet," was how Ivan Kivelidi, chairman of the Russian Federation Government's Council on Entrepreneurship, summed up the Finance Ministry's stance. In Kivelidi's view, fiscal policy will prompt the conversion of money into cash and the across-the-board criminalization of entrepreneurial activity.

Government Decree on Redeeming Commodity Bonds

PM2704095794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Apr 94 First Edition p 5

[Decree No. 344 of the Russian Federation Government "On State Commodity Bonds," dated 16 April 1994, Moscow and signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin]

[Text] In order to liquidate state commodity bonds and prevent a further increase in what the state owes in compensation for commodity price differences, the Russian Federation government decrees that:

1. The Russian Federation Finance Ministry is to:

buy up, if the owners so wish, specific interest-free 1990 state loan bonds for particular home-produced consumer goods (aside from cars) at existing consumer prices, and, in the case of cars, at 60 percent of the price.

Bonds will be bought primarily from invalids and veterans of the Great Patriotic War and from invalids of the armed forces;

buy up checks for the specific purpose of acquiring motor vehicles, issued before 2 January 1992 and entitling the holder to obtain a vehicle in 1992, and "Harvest-90" checks—at a price that is 70 times the face value of the check, with the money being paid into bank deposits;

index the residue of specific deposits for the acquisition of cars as of 1 January 1992, multiplying by a factor of 70.

The aforementoned checks are to be bought up and deposits are to be indexed for all owners, irrespective of the specified place for acquiring the cars;

pay back to suppliers of agricultural products from the 1991 harvest, who sold grain, oil seeds, potatoes and vegetables on terms envisaged by the 17 July 1991 RSFSR Council of Ministers decree No. 403 "On Measures To Implement the 8 July 1991 Directive No. 1554-1 of the Chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and Chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers 'On Additional Measures To Establish State Grain and Other Food Resources in 1991,'" money owing on bonds through the payment of financial compensation amounting to 70 times the price of the commodity before 2 January 1992.

2. Carry out the measures mentioned in point 1 of this decree during the period from 15 June 1994 and 1 June 1995 on the basis of federal budget funds allocated for this purpose in 1994-1995.

3. It is to be laid down that the following owners of specific interest-free 1990 state loan bonds are entitled to financial compensation:

Russian Federation citizens living on the territory of Russia and outside it;

individuals living on the territory of the Russian Federation and deemed to be enforced migrants or refugees, irrespective of where the bonds were acquired.

4. The Russian Federation Finance Ministry, Russian Federation Economics Ministry, and Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics are to present to the Russian Federation Savings Bank before 1 June 1994 set consumer prices for consumer goods, as envisaged by the 21 December 1989 USSR Council of Ministers decree No. 1119 "On the Issuing of Specific Interest-free State Loans" (except car prices).

5. The proposal by the "AvtoVAZ" joint-stock company that specific interest-free 1990 state loan bonds for cars be exchanged for that joint-stock company's bonds put into circulation on 9 June 1993 is to be accepted.

The Russian Federation Finance Ministry is to:

Buy from the "AvtoVAZ" joint-stock company, if necessary, bonds issued by it at prices agreed with it;

exchange the "AvtoVAZ" joint-stock company bonds for specific interest-free 1990 state loans, on the basis of the amount of compensation indicated in point 1 of the present decree, with the owners of the 1990 bonds paying the extra to make up the price of the aforementioned joint-stock company bond.

6. The Russian Federation Finance Ministry is to:

conclude agreements with the Russian Federation Savings Bank and other banks to be determined by the Russian Federation Finance Ministry on buying up, liquidating, and indexing commodity bonds in accordance with the present decree;

join the Russian Federation Savings Bank in devising and approving the procedure for buying up and liquidating commodity bonds;

determine the mechanism for the exchange of specific interest-free 1990 state bonds for "AvtoVAZ" joint-stock company bonds.

V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government.

Military & Space Issues

Pacific Fleet Admiral Orders Firing on Trespassers

LD2704061494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0443 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok April 27 TASS—Arms will be used now to hit unidentified people without a warning when they attempt to penetrate into the grounds of military units, ships or other facilities of the Pacific Fleet.

ITAR-TASS learnt from the press service of the Pacific Fleet that such orders were given on Wednesday by fleet Commander Georgiy Gurinov. This extraordinary measure was prompted by the heinous murder of Major A. Tedeyev, officer-on-duty at a military unit, in Vladivostok on Tuesday.

The terrorist act was committed by unidentified people at night. Several days before this accident, a group also of unidentified people attempted to capture one of the fleet's munitions depot.

In the opinion of the Pacific Fleet commander, only extreme measures can now stop brazen criminals.

Parameters of Cosmos-2279 Satellite Detailed

LD2604152694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1428 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Flight Control Center, 26 Apr—Cosmos-2279, an artificial earth satellite, was launched from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome today aboard a Cosmos [as received] booster rocket. It is intended for use in the interests of the Russian Defense Ministry.

The satellite has been placed in orbit with the following parameters: initial period of revolution, 105 minutes; apogee, 1,019 km; perigee, 973 km; orbital inclination, 83 degrees.

The equipment on board the satellite is functioning normally.

Mir Cosmonauts Conduct Space Experiments

LD2604132594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0827 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Flight Control Center, 26 Apr—The flight of the orbiting Mir station, manned by cosmonauts Viktor Afanasyev, Yuriy Usachev, and Valeriy Polyakov, is continuing.

During the last two days the scientific section of the crew's program has included astrophysical and technical experiments, as well as medical check-ups.

X-rays and gamma-radiation of extraterrestrial origin was measured by means of instruments mounted on the outside of the space station. Experiments to evaluate the condition of radioelectronic equipment, which has been exposed to the conditions of open space for a long time, were also carried out.

The cosmonauts underwent routine medical checks, including clinical analysis of blood samples.

In accordance with the timetable for routine preventive maintenance the crew will today replace coolant in the internal circuit of the Kvant-2 module's heat regulation system.

According to reports from orbit and telemetric data the flight is proceeding normally.

Defense Workers Demonstrate Outside White House

LD2604131294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 26 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Once again there are pickets outside the government building in Moscow. This time it is defense sector workers who are picketing.

[Correspondent Dmitriy Matyushkin] Once again there are tanks outside the White House, but this time they are only toy ones. As you can see, conversion is fully under way. However, without state support, defense enterprises have fallen into debt. Defense sector workers set up a picket today outside the White House. They were demanding that, taking account of inflation, the debt to defense sector enterprises for fulfilled state orders be settled, that the amount of nontaxable spending on pay be increased, and also that enterprises be compensated for losses relating to conversion.

According to the statistics of the defense sector unions, on 1 April, the Ministry of Defense's arrears in paying for state orders was 154 billion rubles. Payment of wages is often delayed for three months. Lastly, the cash-flow problem of defense enterprises has virtually brought whole towns and works to a halt. Representatives of defense industry unions have accused the government primarily of not fulfilling the obligations of an agreement between sectors. In their view, the majority of specific proposals for stabilizing the sector have had no response.

Boost in Arms Exports Planned

LD2604153194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1347 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] In 1994, Russia is planning to promote and export its military equipment, a high-ranking Russian military official, who preferred to remain anonymous, told INTERFAX. He said that this year, Russian military delegations would participate in about 18 international exhibitions of military equipment and know-how.

The biggest display of Russian weapons is to be seen at the ILA-94 aerospace exhibition in Berlin (May and June), during the air show in Cannes (June) commemorating the landing of allied troops in Normandy, and during the Farnborough air show in Britain.

To quote this military official, Russia will demonstrate its AN-124 and IL-76M cargo planes, the IL-96M passenger liner, MIG-29, SU-27 and SU-30 fighters, the KA-50 combat helicopter and KA-28 anti-boat helicopter. It will also demonstrate its latest air-defense facilities, including the Buk-M1 anti-aircraft complex, Tor-M1 anti-aircraft missile station, Tunguska M anti-aircraft missile complex and Igla portable antiaircraft complex.

War Games Begin in Kaliningrad

LD2504161394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1356 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—The goal of the command and staff "north-west" war games, which began on Monday in Russia's Kalinigrad region and the Leningrad military district, is to perfect the ability of command and staff officers to direct their units. ITAR-TASS was told by the Defence Ministry's press bureau that the exercises, run by Russian Chief of General Staff Colonel-General Mikhail Kolesnikov, will last until April 29.

According to military sources, the exercises are meant to check the military capabilities of the troops stationed in the Kaliningrad region in particular. Earlier, those troops had "powerful back-up in the rear, but have now

ended up surrounded by states whose policies concerning Russia are not always clear", the source said.

This spring is full of army and naval training exercises. Large- scale tactical maneuvers were held in Tajikistan. The "Pomor-94" naval exercises were held in the Barents Sea, and Russian-American- Canadian "Arctic-Sarex" war games were held in Alaska. Eastern Siberia was host to the "Baykal" command and staff exercises. Over- all, by the end of 1994 will have been held three exercise programmes for the strategic nuclear forces and more than ten in the operational and tactical fields.

Such an intense schedule of military exercises is designed, according to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, "to maintain the battle-readiness of the Army and the power of the Navy, and to further develop the coordination of the commanding staff and troops, especially those that have been withdrawn from abroad back onto Russian territory".

Federal Assembly

Parliament Member, Former Banker, Killed 26 Apr

LD2704080894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0734 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, April 27 (TASS)—Member of the Russian Parliament lower house Andrey Ayzderdzis was shot and killed from a shotgun near his house in Moscow's satellite city of Khimki on Tuesday evening.

ITAR-TASS learnt from Igor Negrustuyev, public relations officer of the Russian chief criminal investigation department, that the shotgun was found at a house basement during the investigation. Ayzderdzis died of a gun wound in the right part of the thorax.

The police dog brought investigators to a nearby parking lot. Eye-witnesses are being questioned. Investigation develops five versions.

Aydzerdzis, b. 1958, was member of the "New Regional Policy" parliamentary faction. He was board chairman of the MDK-Bank (authorised capital 240 million roubles) and board chairman of the International Business Corporation before December 1993.

However, following the election to parliament, he left the former posts. The Moscow press printed reports on the controversial nature of Ayzderdzis's business activities.

Yeltsin Condemns 'Villainous Murder'

LD2704090794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0834 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The press secretary to the Russian president today issued a statement from the Russian president, which says:

"I am filled with indignation at the news of the villainous murder of State Duma deputy Andrey Ayzderdzis. I share the grief of the murdered man's near and dear. I join my voice to the expressions of protest from deputies. The murder of a deputy is an encroachment not just on human life, but also on the institution of state authority. I have issued instructions for urgent measures to be taken to find the criminals. They will be tracked down and will get the punishment they deserve.

"Sharing our common grief in this dramatic hour, I would like to express my hope that the State Duma and its deputies will find the right response to this heinous act. Let this tragedy be our warning against violence, let our common grief unite us on our road in search for accord and peace for Russia and its people."

Murder Interrupts Duma Proceedings

LD2704082894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0735 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr—The agenda of today's plenary session of the Duma has been "disrupted" as a result of yesterday's murder of a deputy of the house, Andrey Ayzderdzis.

Duma deputies went to lay flowers at the the site where their colleague died. According to the chairman of the State Duma [Ivan Rybkin], the leadership of the house will do its utmost to ensure that the Minister of Internal Affairs, Viktor Yerin, speaks to deputies at 1200. The State Duma has also adopted a political statement on the murder of a deputy of the house.

Duma Holds Closed Sitting

LD2704100494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0934 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr—After a State Duma delegation came back from the site of the killing of Duma deputy Andrey Ayzderdzis, chairman of the lower chamber Ivan Rybkin announced a closed sitting of the Duma. At the start of the sitting deputies voted to ask Russian Government chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin and leaders of the country's law enforcement bodies to attend.

Duma Adopts Resolution on Murder

LD2704170194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1619 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The State Duma today passed a resolution in connection with the killing of Deputy Andrey Daynisovich Ayzderdzis.

"The State Duma deputy's murder, one of thousands of serious crimes that have swamped the towns and villages of Russia, should justify the adoption of decisive steps in

the fight against crime," says the statement, an account of which has been released by the State Duma's press service.

The statement establishes that, in a situation where the crime world is openly on the offensive, the government and the law enforcement agencies are not taking effective action to stop criminal encroachments upon citizens and are thereby risking not only the lives of individuals, but the very existence of the Russian state system.

The document goes on to say: "Realistically assessing the situation which has arisen today, the extent of the approaching danger, the threshold which has been crossed by the criminal milieu and the potential tragic consequences for the country's multimillion population, we most decisively demand that the President of the Russian Federation [RF], as the guarantor of human and civil rights and liberties to the maximal degree, uses his constitutional powers to bring order, without delay or compromise, to this most important area of our everyday life."

The State Duma considered it necessary to demand that the country's president dismiss the minister of internal affairs of the RF immediately. As for themselves, the deputies voiced their readiness to examine and adopt as a priority "urgent legislative acts in the fight against crime."

Demands Interior Minister's Resignation

LD2704144494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1426 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr—The State Duma has demanded of the Russian Federation president the immediate firing of Minister of Internal Affairs Viktor Yerin from his post and "to put his constitutional powers to maximum use to set things to rights without delay and in an uncompromising manner."

This is contained in a statement adopted today by an overwhelming majority of votes—239 in favor, 11 against, and four abstaining—in connection with the murder of State Duma Deputy Andrey Ayzderdzis. This crime, opine the authors of the document, should spark resolute measures to combat crime. Deputies think that the government and law and order protection bodies are failing to take effective action to stop the criminal encroachment against citizens "which threatens not just the lives of individuals, but the very existence of Russian statehood."

Yerin States Readiness To Resign

LD2704145194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1434 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr— Viktor Yerin, minister of internal affairs, said at a government session today that he is ready to tender his resignation "if my resignation is necessary in the interests of Russia and in the interests of the position of the government." He stressed he is ready to resign only if this is in the interests of state "and not in the interests of certain factions."

Viktor Yerin made this statement in connection with today's demands voiced in the Duma by deputies. Some Duma politicians have appraised the murder of their colleague Andrey Ayzderdzis as proof that the Ministry of Internal Affairs is unable to curb crime.

Chernomyrdin Opposes Resignation Call

LD2704131694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] We have just received a report by an ITAR-TASS correspondent which has just been brought into the studio. Russian Head of Government Viktor Chernomyrdin did not agree today with the demands by several deputies to dismiss Viktor Yerin, the minister of internal affairs. The correspondent learned this from participants in the closed sitting of the State Duma which is debating the circumstances and consequences of the murder of the deputy Ayzderdzis.

An interval in the sitting has now been announced. The journalists managed to find out that Viktor Chernomyrdin spoke at the sitting, reading out a message by the Russian president to the Duma in connection with the deputy's murder, and also answering questions from those present. In particular, reacting to the demand for Viktor Yerin's dismissal, the head of the cabinet said that he was not in favor of shuffling the cards.

During the interval, the factions will discuss a draft decision of the Duma on yesterday's crime. For the time being it is hard to predict how events will develop. In the view of Vladimir Lysenko, a representative of the Yabloko faction, in addition to the fate of the minister of internal affairs, the issue of the prospects for the signing of the treaty on public accord will inevitably come up during the debate. The deputy believes that under the present circumstances, the treaty has little chance of being signed. As reported, the signing was planned for tomorrow.

State Duma Demands Investigation of Murder

LD2704132694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The State Duma has adopted a political statement on the assassination of Deputy Andrey Ayzderdzis in the Moscow suburban town of Khimki on Tuesday night. It demands that the Russian president, as the guarantor of the citizens' rights and freedoms, use his constitutional powers for restoring order and investigating this crime.

Vladimir Medvedev, the leader of the New Regional Policy faction to which Ayzderdzis belonged, told the

State Duma that the deputies who had visited the scene of murder had established that it was a political assassination.

Leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party's faction Vladimir Zhirinovsky demanded that the date for signing the Civic Accord agreement be put off until May 10, and that the deputies be given the right to keep weapons. He also demanded an immediate resignation of Interior Minister Viktor Yerin and expressed readiness to become Russia's interior minister.

Interfax has learned that at its Wednesday sitting, held due to the murder of parliamentarian Andrey Ayzderdzis, the LDPR faction of the State Duma gave its backing to the proposal of its leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky who demanded new elections for the post of State Duma speaker—now held by Ivan Rybkin.

in his interview with journalists leader of the Yabloko faction Grigoriy Yavlinsky declared that the murder of the State Duma deputy demonstrates once more that "today we are not ready to sign an agreement on civic accord and it is impossible to build such an accord on blood." He pointed out that the Yabloko faction would support the demand for the resignation of Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, however it would categorically oppose attempts of individual opposition forces to dismiss Ivan Rybkin.

Yegor Gaydar, leader of the Russia's Choice faction pointed out in his interview with journalists that the faction does not advocate new elections for State Duma speaker, as far as the Interior Minister is concerned, this is the prerogative of the president.

Zhirinovskiy Demands Government, Rybkin Resign

LD2704094994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0914 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr—Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] today demanded the resignation of the entire government and of State Duma chairman Ivan Rybkin.

Speaking at an impromptu news conference in connection with the killing yesterday of State Duma deputy Andrey Ayzderdzis, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy announced that the LDPR faction now demanded the resignation of the entire government and not just several ministers, as it had done earlier, and that it was ready to propose its own candidates for the vacant posts. "So far we are not demanding the resignation of the president; we are offering him a compromise option," the LDPR leader added.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy poured particular scorn on State Duma speaker Ivan Rybkin, who in his view was "pushing the Duma towards a crisis." The faction leader condemned "Ivan Rybkin's defeatist stance on every issue" and said the Duma would not empower him to sign the treaty on public accord. He proposed to postpone the signing of the document till 12 May to allow time to make changes in the government and to suspend privatization.

Parliamentary Group Members View Colleague's Murder

LD2704114494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1040 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, April 27 (TASS)—It is doubtful that the murder of parliament's lower house member Andrey Ayzderdzis was connected with his business activities before his election to parliament. The murder was "more motivated by politics than crime", Valeriy Khomyakov, consultant of the "new regional policy" parliamentary group of which the murdered deputy was a member, said in an iterview with ITAR-TASS on Wednesday.

At the same time, he did not preclude a chance that the lawmaker was killed in connection with his publication of the list of 266 major criminals of the Russian underworld with their nicknames. Khomyakov called this publication "a possible version".

According to the consultant, Ayzderdzis was "out of big politics" and leaned to right-wing centrists according to his sympathies.

The lawmaker was in high moods at the group's meeting on Tuesday when legislators saw him the last time. He did not show any signs of anxiety, Khomyakov said.

The "New Regional Policy" group at the lower house made a statement on Wednesday concerning the murder of independent legislator Ayzderdzis on April 26 who was shot point blank at the entrance to his house in Moscow's satellite city of Khimki.

The statement says that a new name was added to the bleak list of contract murders, increasingly committed for political reasons. A deputy of the supreme body of power was killed for the first time.

Criminals committed a heinous crime against an individual which become a common feature in Russia of late. The gaunlet was again thrown to society, the president, the government and parliament.

The state, bodies of authority and law enforcement organs again strikingly displayed their helplessness and flimsiness in the struggle against crime.

Further passivity and abstention from tough, energetic and resolute measures aimed at stopping and eradicating

crimes and wrong-doings, puts into growing jeopardy both the life of individual people and the very existence of Russian statehood, the document stresses.

The parliamentary group demanded that "the president of the Russian Federation as guarantor of human rights and freedoms should use his constitutional powers to the utmost for immediate and uncompromising work to establish law and order in this important sphere of our every-day life".

The statement by the group was also signed by lower house speaker Ivan Rybkin.

Following the return of the lower house's delegation from the place of the murder, speaker Rybkin announced a closed session of the house. Deputies voted at the start of the session that Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin and heads of law enforcement bodies of Russia should be present at the meeting.

Slaying Prompts Call for Action on Crime

PM2704150194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 28 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

["Statement by the 'New Regional Policy' Deputies' Group," signed by V.S. Medvedev, leader of "New Regional Policy," and I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma; no date given; carried under the rubric "In the State Duma"]

[Text] On 26 April at 2030 hours the life of Andrey Daynisovich Ayzderdzis, an independent State Duma deputy, was cut short in his 35th year. He was shot at point-blank range at the entrance to the ordinary dwelling house in which he lived in the Moscow Oblast city of Khimki.

Yet another name is entered on the gloomy list of contract killings increasingly being committed for political motives. For the first time a deputy of the supreme legislative organ, the Federal Assembly State Duma, has been murdered. A Russian citizen has been murdered. A human being, to put it simply, has been murdered. Insolently. Boldly. Mercilessly.

Once again—and at the same time, for the first time—one of the most terrible crimes against the person, which in recent times have become a common phenomenon in our country, has been committed. Once again a challenge has been hurled to society, the president, the government, and parliament. Once again the helplessness and impotence of the state, the organs of power, and the law-enforcement organs in the battle against crime are revealed in all their nakedness.

Once again we all—all deputies, the whole nation—are persuaded of this through our own bitter experience.

The subsequent inactivity, passivity, and failure to adopt tough, energetic, and decisive measures aimed at scotching and eradicating crime and violations of the law place in ever-growing jeopardy not only the lives of individual people, but the very existence of Russian statehood itself (in any of its forms).

Soberly assessing the currently prevailing situation, the scale of the imminent danger, the bounds which criminal elements have transgressed, and the possible tragic consequences for the country's multimillion population, we demand, with all the decisiveness at our command, that the Russian Federation president, as the guarantor of human and civic rights and freedoms, and as himself a citizen, make maximum use of his constitutional powers for the urgent and uncompromising imposition of order in this most important sphere of our everyday life.

We express firm confidence that the first step in this complex and difficult battle will be the investigation of the murder of our colleague and the proper punishment of his murderers.

Criminals and instigators of murders must be found, convicted, and suffer their merited punishment.

Peace must triumph in our country.

[Signed] V.S. Medvedev, leader of the "New Regional Policy" deputies' group.

I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma.

Rybkin To Sign Accord Treaty for State Duma

LD2704161794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1539 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr—Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the Duma, will sign tomorrow the Treaty on Public Accord on behalf of the State Duma. Only 106 deputies of the chamber voted today for the decision not to recommend the chairman of the Duma to do so.

Accordingly, the majority of 449 deputies of the lower chamber of the Federation Council confirmed the power of Ivan Rybkin to sign the treaty on behalf of the Duma.

Presidium Debates Signing of Accord Treaty

LD2704134794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1304 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr—The draft treaty on public accord [dogovor ob obshchestvennom soglasii] is being examined at a session of the Presidium of the Russian Government, which has just begun under the chairmanship of Viktor Chernomyrdin. It is expected that at the end of the session members will instruct Viktor Chernomyrdin to sign this document on behalf of the government of the Russian Federation.

The treaty on public accord is to be signed at a formal ceremony in the Kremlin tomorrow by the Russian president, the prime minister, the chairmen of both houses of parliament, the leaders of the republics, the heads of administrations and of the representative authorities [legislatures] of the constituent parts of the Russian Federation, and also by the heads of factions, political parties, public associations, and trade unions.

According to the latest version of the draft treaty, this document is to be concluded "for the sake of public accord."

Federation Council Meets, Discusses Economic Crisis

LD2704121494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0946 GMT 27 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Apr— The deputies of the Federation Council have decided to set up a permanent working group which would work on anti-crisis measures in the Russian economy together with the government and the Russian president's administration. Today they discussed the question of the crisis in the country's economy, but voted down the draft resolution on this issue. Several committees of the chamber have been instructed to generalize the proposals that were made during the rather long discussion and to submit them to the next sitting.

However, an opinion was voiced that this type of document should not be adopted altogether, as "just another piece of paper" would not lead to any results. Instead of this it should be demanded that the government adopt and publish a program of anti-crisis measures.

The "complete absence of any consistent and sensible policy of the national economy" in the draft resolution was named as the "main strategic error of the government." The absence of "macroeconomic planning and of a mechanism for its implementation" was also held against them.

Duma Sets Up Human Rights Monitoring Commission

PM2704115794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Apr 94 p 1

[Own information report: "Duma Taking Measures in Wake of IZVESTIYA Articles"]

[Text] A State Duma commission to verify cases of human rights violations against those suspected and accused of crimes and held at Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs detention centers and holding tanks was set up 26 April, ITAR-TASS reports.

We would recall that in late February IZVESTIYA published an article on the inhuman conditions facing those held at detention centers, and the use of physical and psychological measures against them. IZVESTIYA later appealed to the State Duma to set up a commission to investigate these cases.

Rybkin's First 100 Days in Office Appraised

PM2604121794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by ITAR-TASS observer Tamara Zamyatina, especially for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI: "Speaker Ivan Rybkin's 100 Days in Office"]

[Text] "We are already through the first quarter," Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the lower chamber of the Federal Assembly, said recently about the State Duma, and consequently about himself. This measure of time, to which we are accustomed, can be replaced by the 100-day period which has been adopted in the West, whereupon preliminary assessments of a political leader's activity are made.

The ascent of the former leader of the "Communists of Russia" faction in the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and currently member of the Russian Federation Agrarian Party, to the post of State Duma chairman, was at first perceived very cautiously and coolly by politicians and the press. However, since his first few weeks of leading the lower chamber of the parliament, Ivan Rybkin has "grown" perceptibly in the eyes of the deputies-democrats and observers, thanks primarily to the striking contrast with Ruslan Khasbulatov. Unlike him, the new speaker does not pull up people who are speaking, he does not get involved in arguments with them, and—and this is very important for a speaker—does not put the stress on the wrong syllables. According to an ironic observation by NTV Chief Editor Igor Malashenko following an interview with Ivan Rybkin on the ITOGI program, "this is the first politician in our country who knows the word 'definition.'"

You can assume how difficult it is for a "communist speaker," as Ivan Rybkin is described by the world news agencies, to balance between the right wing and the left wing in the Duma. In this regard, the most dramatic event for him in the 100 days of his chairmanship has been the vote in the Duma on the package of decisions on the amnesty. On the one hand, the Zhirinovskiyites, the Communists, and the Agrarians would not have forgiven the head of the Duma for defecting while, on the other hand, the presidential and democratic wing was following his stance vigilantly, as if with X-ray eyes. In this tense clash, Ivan Rybkin saved face thanks to the readiness demonstrated by the Russian Federation president's aide Georgiy Satarov to submit to the State Duma sitting the question of amending the decree on a political amnesty, which, however, was not fated to come about. On the other hand, the chairman of the State Duma did not generate irritation among his own supporters either, since he is upholding the material and housing interests of former Russian Federation people's

deputies before the Presidential Administration, including the instigators of the 3-4 October events in Moscow. "Magnanimity disheartens opponents, and it is impossible to approach civil peace without the idea of forgetting the past,"—that is how Ivan Rybkin answered my question about whether he considers the transfer of Moscow apartments to the ownership of Ilya Konstantinov and Sergey Baburin, for example, to be moral.

However, in his plan to transform his views from communist ones to social-democratic ones, Ivan Rybkin is generating sharp condemnation in the opposition camp. At the March rally in Moscow, devoted to the anniversary of the referendum on preserving the USSR, the speakers publicly renounced their former kindred spirit, which undoubtedly worked to the benefit of the centrist image of the chairman of the lower chamber of the parliament. "I am not the speaker of two factions, but of the entire Duma," Ivan Rybkin said about this.

Members of the "Russia's Choice" faction, who at first did not trust the speaker—who was not "one of their men" by definition—now clearly sympathize with him. Furthermore, judging by the results of the visit by a State Duma delegation headed by Ivan Rybkin to Finland, I would boldly call his views on economics entirely liberal. At a meeting with the leadership of the Central Union of Industry and Employers in Helsinki, the Duma speaker sharply rebuked the "state parasites, running to Chernomyrdin for money," and promised to use his powers for the adoption of laws on granting only targeted credits, accompanied by clear control of their use.

Giving his own assessment of his 100 days of endeavors in the post of speaker, Ivan Rybkin noted with satisfaction in our conversation that the "chamber has not decided to implement the principle of formal majority [formalnoye bolshinstvo] in adopting decisions," and he added that in Russia's history it has actually been the minority which has often turned out to be right.

Ivan Rybkin considers the adoption of the federal budget for the second quarter and the joint work with the government on the draft budget for 1994 and 1995 to be on the positive side of the State Duma's activity. In addition, he also singled out serious work done by the chamber, such as the Civil, Land, Electoral, and Administrative Codes, prepared for examination at the State Duma's sitting.

For journalists, the most important indicator of a politician's opinions remains his attitude to the press, for which Ruslan Khasbulatov was particularly "famous." Again, unlike him, when asked whether it is not time for the government and the parliament to give up the state press organs, Ivan Rybkin answered that, apart from a few individual deputies, the State Duma does not lay claim to its own press organ, and is prepared to be satisfied with a supplement in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, where adopted laws will be officially published. At the same time, the chamber speaker believes, the State Duma should not "support" the entire newspaper, but should only pay for expenditure involved in publishing the supplement. He also deems it necessary to provide a certain number of hours of broadcasting on state television for the federal organs of power, citing the experience of the BBC state television company in Britain. On the other hand, Ivan Rybkin warned journalists against "going to the other extreme, when individual economic groups make the mass media subordinate to themselves."

A fine morning augurs a nice day. May the "weather" in the State Duma speaker's mutual relations with the president, the deputies' factions, and the press remain fine—previous political storms which raged on the political pinnacle, cost society too dear.

International Affairs

Crimea Leaders Urge Resumption of Fleet Talks

LD2604112994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1104 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow 26 April TASS— President Yuriy Meshkov of the Republic of the Crimea, Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, and Viktor Semyonov, chairman of the Sevastopol City Council of People's Deputies have issued a joint statement urging the presidents of Russia and Ukraine to resume the interrupted Russo-Ukrainian talks on the Black Sea Fleet and "to act as the guarantors of peace in the Republic of the Crimea," a spokesman at the fleet press centre told ITAR-TASS by telephone.

The authors of the statement expressed utter regret and concern over the frustration of the Russo-Ukrainian talks on dividing the fleet. They believe that the "struggle for political power and the presidency of Ukraine becomes a factor which can turn the process of negotiations on the problems of the Black Sea Fleet into a military conflict."

Attempts are being made to lay the blame for a possible break-up of Ukraine's statehood on the Republic of the Crimea and severely punish it for that. It is no problem by means of provocations to bring about an unstable situation in the republic and, making use of that, introduce a state-of-emergency regime, putting Russia-Ukraine relations on the brink of war, the authors of the statement maintain.

Army Chief of Staff on Fleet, Denuclearization

BR2604122594 Brussels LA LIBRE BELGIQUE in French 26 Apr 94 p 5

[Interview with General Anatoliy Lopata, chief of staff of the Ukrainian Army, by Michel Rosten in Brussels; date not given: "General Anatoliy Lopata Optimistic About Black Sea Agreement"]

[Text] General Anatoliy Lopata, chief of staff of the Ukrainian Army, made a stopover in Brussels (he will visit NATO this Tuesday [26 April]) on his return from the United States, where he was received at the Pentagon. The question of his country's denuclearization was discussed as was the dispute over the Black Sea Fleet. Following an idea by Defense Minister General Vitaliy Radetsky, he sounded out the Americans on the proposal of "bringing a third party into the discussions to encourage the conclusion" of the negotiations. But, on Saturday [23 April], according to the Russian press agency INTERFAX, President Kravchuk, in agreement with Moscow, stated on Ukrainian radio that the question of the fleet should be solved without the intervention of a "third party."

[Rosten] How do you explain the fact that your president took that position?

[Lopata] I think our president's stance is that this is a bilateral problem. He probably thinks we should use all diplomatic means and adopt the most rational approaches for the division of the fleet. And it is only when all the possible solutions have been rejected that we should resort to the mediation of a third party. (The Netherlands has been approached—LA LIBRE BELGIQUE editor's note).

[Rosten] What kind of relations can Ukraine still maintain with President Meshkov, who is openly expressing his opposition to the presence of the Ukrainian fleet in Crimean ports?

[Lopata] The positions here are clear. Crimean President Meshkov is pursuing a policy which is not that of Ukraine but that of Russia. He is violating Ukrainian laws. The presence of the Ukrainian Army and the creation of a Ukrainian fleet in Crimea have no justification in Mr. Meshkov's mind. I think that his opinions do not reflect our approach to ensuring the state's defense.

[Rosten] Several agreements have already been reached at the highest level on the division of the Black Sea Fleet. None has been respected. Why?

[Lopata] Russia does not see any problem in dividing the Black Sea Fleet. Over the past two years, it has stressed that it was prepared to divide this fleet and even to ensure that Ukraine could form its own fleet but provided the whole infrastructure—and hence the bases—remains Russia's property. That approach to settling the question cannot satisfy Ukraine. As a state, it has its viewpoint both on the division of the fleet and on that of the naval forces in the existing bases. Ukraine would like the agreements on the division of the fleet and the leasing of part of the infrastructure to the Russian Federation to be decided in a civilized way, respecting its interests and specifying the timing of the leasing of bases by the Russian fleet. What is now being proposed to Ukraine is unacceptable. A compromise is necessary and I think it will be found.

[Rosten] But the Russians also want to safeguard their interests...

[Lopata] If there was an amiable settlement, Ukraine would benefit from good prospects for the creation of its own naval forces on the basis of the division of the whole Soviet fleet, in whose creation it actively participated. Compared with the whole of this fleet, it is obvious that the Black Sea Fleet is merely an insignificant part. Ukraine could therefore have claims on the whole fleet of the former USSR but because it understands Russia's strategic problems in the region of the Black Sea basin and the Mediterranean basin, it has accepted the principle of a division of all the Black Sea vessels. With regard to its share, in other words around 200 ships, Ukraine has the opportunity to decide which ships

should form part of its own naval force... It might suggest that Russia should buy those it does not need. As for the form of cooperation, it could take different on forms: Instead of handing over ships, it could involve handing over weapons or other equipment vital to the Ukrainian fleet. We have agreed with Russia on this approach. It is the division of the infrastruture which is causing a great problem in our relations. Russia wants to remain in these bases forever.

[Rosten] You are on your way home from the United States where you discussed the problem of the denuclearization of Ukraine. Will the new Parliament be more successful in settling this than the previous one?

[Lopata] Ukraine is meticulously implementing the agreements on the transfer of nuclear warheads to Russia. So far, it has transferred three convoys of weapons of this type in exchange for which it has received a convoy of nuclear fuel.

[Rosten] The Russian press has launched a campaign against Ukraine, accusing it of storing chemical and biological weapons. What is your answer to these accusations?

[Lopata] I can only say this: There are no such weapons on Ukrainian territory. All the weapons which belonged to the chemical or biological sector were transported out of Ukrainian territory before the creation of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

[Rosten] Is the general dispute between Kiev and Moscow not likely to degenerate in the military sphere?

[Lopata] The problem of relations between Ukraine and Russia—two states with equal rights—must obviously be solved at the level of diplomatic relations. If, in these relations, the armed forces of one or other state make their voice heard, we must pay attention to it. But that voice must have limits that prohibit the use of arms. What happened in Odessa is pure provocation, but Kiev and Moscow have managed to control that incident, which they do not want to see repeated.

Fleet Problem 'Should Not Affect' Yeltsin Visit

LD2604142394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The problem of the Black Sea Fleet should not affect the possibility of and the date for Boris Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine, INTERFAX-Ukraine was told on Tuesday [26 April] by the head of the Ukrainian president's service for international affairs, Anton Buteyko.

He said that at the talks in Sevastopol agreements were outlined on the splitting of warships and vessels of the Black Sea Fleet. There is also the decision of the presidents on the Fleets' separate basing and we do not see any other variants, said Buteyko.

He said that the presidents of Russia and Ukraine at the recent meeting in Moscow stressed the priority importance for the swift working out of the treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Buteyko said that Ukraine was prepared long ago for the signing of a comprehensive agreement.

The spokesman also said that the Ukrainian side had sent its proposals to Moscow on time. However, later the process had become stalled.

Buteyko said that now a new impetus was given to the preparatory process and Ukraine is doing everything possible so that the document proves to be acceptable for both sides.

Fleet Seeks Crimean President To Join Talks

LD2604180194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The Black Sea Fleet seriously disapproved of Ukraine's position which had insisted that Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov not take part in the recent talks on the Black Sea Fleet between the Russian and Ukrainian defense ministers. This was announced by Chief of the Black Sea Fleet headquarters, Rear Admiral Petr Svyatashov in an interview with INTERFAX.

He repeated that in accordance with Ukrainian legislation on power-sharing the Crimean leadership and its executive and legislative bodies must be informed on the establishment of new military units and dislocation of the troops.

Svyatashov suggested that the Ukrainian defense minister had considered his authority to be higher that the Ukrainian law on power-sharing adopted by the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet.

The last developments when a Ukrainian Navy patrol post had been established in order to control the Black Sea Fleet naval infantry in the Kazachya Bay (Sevastopol) undermined all the statement by General Vitaliy Radetskyy on friendly intentions and peace civilized settlement of the Black Sea Fleet issue, Svyatashov said.

Deputy Defense Minister on 'Flexible' Approach

LD2604144894

[Editorial Report] Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian at 1000 GMT on 26 April carries a four-minute report on the recent Russian-Ukrainian talks on the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol.

Correspondent Vasyl Kukurichka asks Colonel General Ivan Bizhan, a member of the Ukrainian delegation and deputy defense minister of Ukraine, about his impressions of the talks. Bizhan replies: "When we arrived here with specific intentions and specific proposals with regard to resolving this problem—I will tell you that Army General Vitaliy Hryhorovych Radetskyy, the defense minister, and we, too, searched for all ways to

carry out the instructions of our presidents. I will say that our proposals and our approaches to this matter were, well, very flexible.

"In the first place we took account of the social situation and social problems, the current situation, the future situation, but unfortunately, we did not meet such an approach from the Russian side—I am not talking about diplomats, I am talking about the military. From the Russian side we met demands that only that part of the Black Sea Fleet which will go to Russia should be based in Crimea, but Ukraine's Navy should be based beyond the boundaries of Crimea.

"I will tell you that this is not only...[pauses] well, I do not see at all how one can dictate such conditions to a state, in which the other state would like to be based. I think that the problem of where the navies will be based is, after all, not Russia's problem, but Ukraine's problem. But where the part of the Black Sea Fleet, which will go to Russia, will be based—this is precisely its problem, and therefore it should resolve this problem, absolutely taking account of the interests of our state, but unfortunately, as I have already said, we did not see such a constructive attitude from the Russian side."

Kravchuk Spokesman Calls Meshkov Statement 'Irresponsible'

LD2704150294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1215 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev—In a conversation with a UNIAN correspondent on 27 April, the Ukrainian presidential press service official in charge of domestic policy matters, Mykola Mykhalchenko, described as "irresponsible" the statement by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, Sevastopol Council Chairman Viktor Semenov, and Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin regarding the breakdown of the Ukrainian-Russian negotiations on the problem of dividing the Black Sea Fleet. The statement emphasizes, in particular, that "the disintegration of Ukrainian statehood is possible and attempts are being made to make the Republic of Crimea responsible for that process, and penalize it harshly because of this. It is not difficult, with the aid of provocations, to create an unstable situation in the Republic and capitalize on this to introduce a state of emergency, thus pushing relations between Russia and Ukraine to the brink of war." In the view of the statement's authors, "urgent steps are needed to prevent a threat of the emergence of a new Yugoslavia." Mykola Mykhalchenko said: "These people are in fact outsiders. Yuriy Meshkov is losing prestige on the Crimean peninsula. There are rumors that Eduard Baltin cannot resign for the same reason, i.e., because of his unpopularity among the sailors [sentence as received]. It is clear that Viktor Semenov needs to score points ahead of the election of Sevastopol's mayor."

Deployment of Ukrainian Battalion in Gorazde Deferred

LD2604174394 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1430 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 26 Apr—A Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Ministry delegation, led by Ambassador at Large Andriy Ozadovskyy, is back from a tour of the Balkan Peninsula's countries. At its meetings with Bosnian Serb and Muslim leaders in Bosnia-Herzegovina, issues of the possibility of halting combat operations in that region were discussed, and steps to put into practice the UN Security Council's resolution on a political settlement to the Yugoslav crisis, as well as questions of guaranteeing the safety of the peacekeeping forces' contingents that were taking part in UN operations to secure peace, were examined.

Ukraine is concerned about the UN decision to deploy the Ukrainian peacekeeping forces battalion in the area of the town of Gorazde where lately there has been intensive fighting. It was emphasized at the meeting between Mr. Ozadovskyy and the command of the UN forces in Yugoslavia that decisions on the Ukrainian contingent further participating in UN peacekeeping operations should be made with the safety of our military personnel taken into consideration. That is why it is only after combat operations in the Gorazde area are halted that the Ukrainian peacekeepers can be deployed there.

Second Battalion to Join UNPROFOR Peacekeepers

LD2704165094 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The press service of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry today announced the departure of another trainload of personnel and hardware from the second Ukrainian battalion, which will act within the composition of the United Nations peace-keeping force in former Yugoslavia. The battalion is manned and trained on the basis of the Precarpathian military district.

Grachev Removing Ukrainians From Russian Army High Posts

LD2704211694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1935 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—As a high-ranking representative of the Ukrainian president's administration, who wished to remain unidentified, told a UNIAN correspondent today, the comment by the Russian side, which took part in the Black Sea Fleet negotiations with the Ukrainian military in Sevastopol, to the effect that the delegation from Kiev was responsible for the breakdown of the negotiations, is totally absurd. According to him, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has not explained, as yet, the reasons behind his unexpected disappearance from Sevastopol and refusal to put his

signature under the mutually acceptable and coordinated—by the expert commissions of both countries—document on the division of the sea-going force of the Black Sea Fleet.

"Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy, who headed the Ukrainian delegation, offered compromise variants to solve the issues under consideration, however, the Russian side exercised the tactics of the 'elder brother,' applying various methods of pressure, including diplomatic ones. It seems that the problem cannot be solved without the participation of a third party, if they raise the question in this manner and insist that the naval forces of Ukraine must be based outside Crimea, although it would be unadvisable to resort to the variant that occurred during the solution of the nuclear arms issue," pointed out the high-ranking representative.

In his opinion, no matter what conditions they set in Moscow, the reality is such that both the naval forces of Ukraine and the Russian Navy must be stationed in Sevastopol. What is more, both the naval base in Donuzlav and the Sevastopol base could be granted to Russia on lease. The rest of the bases on the peninsula, including those in Kerch and Feodosiya, are the property of Ukraine, and the Russian ships can stay there by agreement only.

The representative of the Ukrainian president's administration also believes that Black Sea Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin is, undoubtedly, the initiator of the anti-Ukrainian actions at the Black Sea Fleet. The statement on the results of the Black Sea Fleet negotiations, which he signed jointly with Yuriy Meshkov and Viktor Semenov, the chairman of the Sevastopol City Council, is an evidence "of the desire to openly manifest the revanchist, great power stand of the Russian Federation."

As an UNIAN correspondent learned from the circles close to the Russian military department, after the negotiations in Sevastopol Defense Minister Pavel Grachev issued an instruction to revise the cadre of the Russian Army, removing officers of Ukrainian descent from high posts.

Kravchuk Visits U.S. Embassy to Express Condolences

LD2704164894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Today, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk visited the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine and expressed deep condolences to the U.S. diplomats in connection with the death of Former U.S. President Richard Nixon. The president left his signature in the book of condolences.

Addressing William Miller, the U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Ukraine, he said that in our state they know well how ponderable was the contribution of Richard Nixon to the cause of developing U.S.-Ukrainian relations.

Acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy, Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko, and other officials also visited the embassy of the United States of America.

Kravchuk Denies Quarrel With Russia

PM2604120994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk by INTERFAX agency journalists "specially for ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI"; at INTERFAX Moscow headquarters, date not given: "Leonid Kravchuk: God Forbid Our Peoples Should Quarrel! During the CIS Heads of State Conference in the Russian Capital Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk Visited INTERFAX Moscow Headquarters and Answered the Agency Journalists' Questions"]

[Text] [INTERFAX] Leonid Makarovich! Ukraine has signed an agreement on joining the CIS Economic Union as an associate member. Why that status in particular, and what will that status provide for Ukraine?

[Kravchuk] I think that the division into "full" and "associate" membership of the Economic Union is currently a negative thing. I will explain why. While the CIS as a structure is in the formation stage, it does not seem possible to make a clear distinction between full and associate members of the union. For instance, we have signed all the economic documents which were put to the CIS Heads of State Council. Thus, I believe that in actual fact there is no difference between those classed as full members and us associate members of the Economic Union.

We realize that this may be an artificial distinction at the moment, but there is still a "but." The fact is that the Ukrainian parliament, when it examined the Treaty on the Formation of the CIS, made some appropriate comments and stipulations. These are in force to this day. And I as president cannot sign any documents ignoring those stipulations. This is the explanation for our legal status of associate member of the Economic Union. But I would repeat that we are playing and will continue to play the most full and active role in the Economic Union.

[INTERFAX] The second question is also partly connected with the form of cooperation. There has been talk about the Kazakhstan president's proposal to set up a Eurasian union. A number of politicians, not least in Russia—Sergey Shakhray, for instance—are even calling for an international group of experts to be set up to elaborate an overall concept for the economic integration of the former Union republics (those which want to participate, of course). What is your attitude to these proposals?

[Kravchuk] I could reply in the words of the sages of old: "Do today what can be done today; what cannot be done today (if the time is not ripe), postpone until tomorrow."

The conditions for integration on the broad scale that certain politicians are assuming (taking the EC as their model, presumably) are not yet in place here. I do not believe that as soon as you sign any decision it starts being implemented all by itself; that we signed a decision and the CIS started operating; or that we can sign another and the Eurasian union will start operating tomorrow....

For this union to work and operate properly the conditions for it must be prepared. Step by step.

What goals and tasks are we setting? How should we approach such goals and tasks? After all, it is no secret that the EC has taken 35 years to reach its current position. We have only been in the CIS for a few years so far, and we have been unable to elaborate the mechanisms for the Commonwealth's activity during this period. Many other questions have not been resolved either. Not because we have no desire to do so, but because we have no opportunity, no conditions. You need to have the right conditions to solve any problem—all the more so when it comes to solving such major problems.

Second, we must ultimately resolve them in a civilized fashion. We need to instruct experts to work seriously on the whole range of issues and then consult with the people. Look how tolerantly and respectfully the population is treated by the European states, where a whole variety of opinion polls are carried out. But our mentality is to say that we have met and signed another agreement, so it should start operating! That the people will see the results later. Actually, this is probably not quite correct.

That is, I do not reject the idea itself; I merely do not want it to immediately become a subject of a political decision, because then it will end badly. We cannot yet answer all the questions which will be of concern to people in connection with the implementation of this proposal.

[INTERFAX] It seems that there is currently a certain amount of concern among Russian social and official circles about the results of the Ukrainian parliamentary elections. The gist of this concern is that different political forces with diametrically opposed views won in different parts of your country. This presupposes a potential either for sharp confrontation or, conversely, for state power—in its desire to consolidate society—to try to play the nationalist card. Events in Odessa and all the problems connected with the Black Sea Fleet can partly be explained by this theory. What is your view on this?

[Kravchuk] We need to ask the question as follows: Consolidation around what, or confrontation with whom and against what? After all, profoundly different forces were also victorious in the December elections in Russia, but nobody in Russia is yet proposing that that state join with Ukraine. Moreover, if some Russian parliamentary deputies allowed themselves to suggest as much, they would probably be considered not very serious people, to put it quite politely. More accurately, the question would arise of whether Ukraine would be an independent state in friendship and alliance with Russia or whether it would come under Russia. As president I say that I want to be in friendship, cooperation, and partnership with Russia. But I do not want to be under Russia.

Certain people claim that it is wrong to argue in this way, on the grounds that such a thing could not happen. Well, unfortunately, history has shown that when two states unite, tendencies toward a strong ethnic thrust are victorious in the historical aspect and in development. That is inevitable.

The 340 years of unification with Russia and the 70 years in the USSR confirmed that the Ukrainian language has already started to disappear from Ukraine and certain traditions of our national culture have begun to die off.

That is a real fact. It is the reason why we need to elaborate a mechanism to ensure that Ukraine and Russia live in friendship and partnership as two good-neighborly states. To this end we need to resolve some acute issues hampering good-neighborliness.

For instance, one of these is the nuclear issue. It strikes me that we have already resolved it one way or another. I personally am glad that the tripartite agreement on issues relating to the elimination of nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory are beginning to be fulfilled, albeit with difficulty.

Then there is the Black Sea Fleet problem. I think that, on the basis of the agreements that have been reached, we will be able to solve this problem as well. I want the Odessa incident—without going into details or analyzing who was right or wrong—to be seen as a signal for the immediate and constructive resolution of the Black Sea Fleet problem. I want to stress that when such complex issues are being resolved we must all be guided by good intentions. There can be no other approach.

If the Russian military say that the entire fleet and its entire infrastructure should go to Russia, while the Ukrainians strive to give nothing, then it is clear that both of these positions are both wrong and unrealistic.

In confirmation of this I myself would raise the following question—in 1992 prices, the entire Black Sea naval structure is worth 35 trillion rubles [R] (the ruble-dollar rate being 1-1,000 at the time); consequently, the value of the fleet is $35 billion (made up of $17.5 billion for Russia and the same amount for Ukraine). Ukraine's debt to Russia is $2.5 billion. Thus, Russia should pay Ukraine $15 billion and then the ships could go to Russia. But this must be done in such a way as to ensure that the cost of the ships is paid for first. If we recall Ostap Bender, he reaffirmed that we should not first hand the ships over and get the money for them 10 years later. But is Russia capable of paying this amount of

money at the moment? It is important to realize that this is not a question of nationalistic or imperial aspirations. It is simple economics—will Russia be able to transfer $15 billion to Ukraine? Of course not. So we need to proceed on the basis of the actual situation and the actual interests of both countries.

The Black Sea Fleet problem can be resolved, but it has to be in a phased manner. We should begin by dividing up the fleet and separating it into different bases. If there are two commanders in the same "galley" they are bound to quarrel. I recall the period when the Black Sea Fleet was commanded by Admiral Igor Kasatonov and the Ukrainian Navy by Admiral B. Kozhin. Initially, all was sweetness and light between them. But they lived together for a month and the fighting started.

I. Kasatonov was replaced by E. Baltin, while B. Kozhin was replaced by V. Beskaravaynyy. The first month went well, but then the fighting began again. Thus, if the fleets are not split up, I am sure that no good will come of it.

In the second phase we need to settle the question of the Russian naval base, proceeding on the basis of international principles. But if the Russian military say that the base means not just Sevastopol but Feodosiya, Odessa, Izmail, Nikolayev, all the airfields, and so forth, then I in my turn will say: "Do you seriously believe that?" Twelve Russian naval bases in Ukraine?! Can that be taken seriously? I think not. In any case, this decision is parliament's prerogative. In other words, the question should be viewed not from the standpoint of the navy which the Soviet Union had, but from the standpoint solely of the Russian Navy. But the military are unwilling to come to terms with this approach; they are pressuring the political leadership on both sides. And, under this pressure, the political leadership has been constantly postponing the task of finding a solution to the Black Sea Fleet problem.

For instance, Ukraine has already said several times: "Yes, we agree to give up part of our navy, since we do not need such a big navy." But, in order to define how to sell it or transfer it to Russia, we must be able to examine all the fleet's documents. We must know how much it is currently worth, what its initial cost was, where the ships are, and what condition they are in. We are not trying to monitor every ship, but merely to study the necessary documents. But we have not had that opportunity. Why is Ukraine being deprived of the right to know what it is giving up? There can be no avoiding a political decision in this area. Moreover, nor should we be guided by the intentions of the naval leaders and the military, because each naval leader wants to be a great man. And they see their greatness in simple terms: The more ships they have under their command, the more important they are.

I am convinced that the Russian president understands me perfectly. And that is already quite an important first step.

[INTERFAX] A conflict between Russia and Ukraine is the most terrible thing that could happen. Presumably you too have given some thought as to how to prevent even small conflicts, not to mention big ones?

[Kravchuk] That is the main question for us. We must not quarrel even over the Black Sea Fleet—although this is a painful issue for Russia. I understand that. Particularly Sevastopol. It is a painful and historical issue for the Russian mentality and the Russian leadership.

Russia's leadership cannot get away from the Russian mentality because, if it did, it would not be the Russian leadership. And the Russian leadership should defend Russians, as I must defend Ukraine. But we must not go our separate ways and end up in a state of mutual enmity. We must not allow our peoples to quarrel. Ultimately, this is the most important point. This has never happened in the past 340 years. God forbid we should ever quarrel. But to prevent this we need to display incredible willpower to avoid getting drawn into conflict. We need to remember that conflicts are almost always started by armed people. Politicians are becoming hostages. All of us must prevent this from happening!

[INTERFAX] But surely, it is not only armed people who can bring about a conflict. Take the problem of energy sources. It is no less painful....

[Kravchuk] True, but that is a different sphere. We can also include the banking system and loans, and there are international norms. We are not confronting one another here either, just because we have weapons. After all, weapons can be fired! A single shot can cause so many complex problems and exacerbate them to such an extent that it may later be not just hard but sometimes even impossible to stop a snowballing conflict. There are examples of this—Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia.

Unfortunately, we already have lessons from which we should learn. That is why I advocate that everything should be resolved swiftly, without delay. I understand those military men who are trying to delay resolution of the issue. They are doing this in the expectation that their flag will be raised on some ship and that this ship will then de facto go to one or other side. Others are counting on the new Crimean leadership to conduct its policy in such a way as to "help" to unilaterally resolve the Black Sea Fleet problem. But this "help," I am convinced, could turn into a tragedy for the two peoples. We have no right to quarrel, even over the Crimea. Although I also understand the Crimea's role and importance for both parties. We need to ensure that the Crimea does not drive us or our peoples apart. Because leaders come and go, but peoples remain.

[INTERFAX] We get the impression that, when you start working together with the Russian president on the most acute issues, you find acceptable solutions. Tell us, do you find it easy to work with Boris Yeltsin on a purely personal level?

[Kravchuk] When I talk about this subject the main thing for me is that each people chooses the leader it wants. The Russians chose B. Yeltsin, and the Ukrainians chose L. Kravchuk. Whether we match each other in character or not, we have to find the ability to work together. As for Boris Nikolayevich personally, I am able to resolve questions with him, I am able to raise problems and to meet with an appropriate reaction—sometimes positive, sometimes negative, but always clear-cut and precise. Yes, when we are together we resolve the tasks facing us.

[INTERFAX] Do you often contact the Kremlin by phone?

[Kravchuk] Of course, and not only Boris Nikolayevich. For instance, when the Russian president was in Spain and the "Odessa incident" occurred, I contacted Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin several times. And I can also reach mutual understanding with him.

But, unfortunately, our mutual understanding with the top Russian leadership is sometimes eroded in the structures "under us." And it is at those levels that people start quoting arguments, finding legal norms of some kind, remembering some international principles that are by no means to our mutual advantage, and making a huge number of proposals of all kinds. And the main task facing both sides is sometimes lost sight of under such a huge pile of documentation....

That is why I would reiterate that the Ukrainian and Russian leaderships need above all political will, patience, and determination.

National Affairs

Minister Denies Disrupting Sevastopol Talks

WS2604151494 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] A briefing devoted to the Ukrainian-Russian negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet issue was held today at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry. At the negotiations in Sevastopol, the Ukrainian delegation proceeded first of all from the Ukrainian interests, Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Ivan Bizhan said at the briefing. During this meeting, he said, it was planned that a draft of a relevant agreement would be put together and ratified. However, the Russian delegation refused to discuss our proposals and failed to show up in the negotiation room on 22 April. Over the past two and a half years, Ivan Bizhan noted, there were five agreements concluded on the Black Sea Fleet. Of those, only one provision was actually implemented, the one on appointing the commander in chief, even though Ukraine repeatedly came up with specific proposals. It is pointless to accuse us of having torpedoed the Sevastopol meeting, he emphasized. We were ready for constructive talks.

Deputy Premier Discusses Results of IAEA Meeting

WS2604085294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] These days, the attention of the world community is drawn to various appraisals of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant's [AES] technical condition. This is connected with the mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], which has analyzed the operation of the Chernobyl AES.

Participants in an IAEA session discussed the Chernobyl AES on 22 April in Vienna. Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shamarov, who headed the Ukrainian delegation, spoke on the results of this representative meeting with a group of journalists. The most important result of the IAEA meeting, he stressed, was the opportunity to once again show that our young state is left virtually at the mercy of fate in dealing with the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster. Given all its economic difficulties, Ukraine has to earmark 14 percent of its budget to handle the consequences of the catastrophe. At the same time, we receive only humanitarian assistance from Western states. It is necessary to urgently resolve the issues of erecting a new shell over the unreliable Chernobyl sarcophagus. The cost of the project is estimated at $500 million. This issue is much more acute than all the discussions of the technical condition of the RBMK-type reactor, which was one of the reasons for the initial Chernobyl explosion. Analysis indicates that, regardless of all technical blunders, these reactors can be modernized. Sometimes, emotions make us forget that Ukraine has three such reactors and Russia—11. Ukrainian representatives also voiced their viewpoints on the power engineering system, which has no efficient substitute in the foreseeable future. The modernization of the entire energy network in Ukraine was also discussed. As a rule, IAEA decisions are only of technical value, however, they will certainly have an impact on the positions of (?leading) Western states during the next high-level meeting of their leaders.

Shmarov: No Chernobyl Shutdown for 'Few Years'

LD2604200694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant will not be closed down within the next few years, said Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov.

He said at a meeting with the plant staff on Tuesday that today's campaign for the closure of the plant pursued "above all political" aims.

However, the Ukrainian leadership "shares the concern of the world community over the future of the Chernobyl plant" and regards the construction of a reliable shelter above Chernobyl's generating unit no. Four and the commissioning of six new units at other nuclear plants as priority goals, Shmarov said.

He said it would be a firm government policy to increase the role of nuclear plants in the country's power industry.

Today Ukraine's nuclear plants generate a little over 30 percent of the country's electricity, but the government might increase this proportion due to the shortage of fuel for thermal plants.

Shmarov said Ukraine had already sent to Russia three trainloads of nuclear warheads in fulfillment of a trilateral agreement between the presidents of Russia, Ukraine and the United States. As compensation for this, Russia is this year due to provide Ukraine with 100 tonnes of nuclear fuel rods.

To date Ukraine has received one train with 25 tonnes of rods for the Zaporozhye plant, Shmarov said. The next shipment of fuel is due to arrive this month, he said, quoting Russian Nuclear Energy Minister Viktor Mikhailov.

Shmarov said the government was planning measures to bolster nuclear power engineering and support nuclear plant personnel. Thus, it has halved their income tax, is going to raise their wages and establish new tariffs for electricity generated by nuclear plants, which is today Ukraine's cheapest electricity, costing 200 karbovantsy per kilowatt-hour. The charges for it are to be put up by 150 or 200 percent, which is expected to provide enough funds to buy fuel and components in Russia and implement safety measures.

In winter 1994, units one and three of the Chernobyl plant, which are still in operation, produced 13 percent of the country's electricity. From the moment the plant was commissioned in 1977 to April 1, 1994, it has generated 258.9 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, including 109 billion after the 1986 accident.

The funds allocated for safety measures at the Chernobyl plant between 1986 and 1993 top one-quarter of the plant's initial cost.

The plant today has a staff of about 5,000. The town of Slavutich, servicing the plant, has a population of about 25,000.

Futility of Chernobyl Damage-Repair Operations Noted

PM2604142994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 4

[Interview with I. Kambulov, deputy chairman of "Chernobyl Assembly," by Andrey Illesh; place and date not given: "Chernobyl: "Eliminators And Businessmen"]

[Excerpt] Biographical details: Igor Nikolayevich Kambulov was born in 1914. A mechanical engineer, he is a graduate of the Bauman Higher Technical School in Moscow. He worked at Chernobyl in 1986, looking for discharged fuel, looking for seepage into the reactor shaft, setting up diagnostic equipment amid the ruins of the reactor after it had exploded. In 1987-1989 he led the full-scale survey team. As a result of the team's work, dozens of holes were bored in places where there were concentrations of fuel and it was established where the nuclear fuel was, how much there was, and what condition it was in, making it possible to arrive at conclusions concerning the safety of the nuclear facility (another explosion was ruled out).

I. Kambulov is currently deputy chairman of the "Chernobyl Assembly" association.

[Illesh] Igor, your guys were known as "stalkers." It sounded highly deferential at the time....

[Kambulov] Mine and the others—everyone who worked on the site near the reactor and inside the sarcophagus (you must remember that together they crawled around the entire "Cover" structure, from top to bottom) really was respected at the station. But once they had left....

...I would remind you that among our compatriots affected by the Chernobyl disaster there is a legal category of citizens who participated in the elimination of the consequences of the disaster inside the exclusion zone or were involved in maintenance or other work at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station. Colloquially they are known as "eliminators." There are around 600,000 of them in the country. Why so many? The vast majority is made up of those who were connected with the construction of the "Cover" structure and the clearing up of the nuclear power station site and buildings for the startup of the three power units that were still alive. These people had a hard time then and life is not sweet even now! The state (in the shape of its leaders) made decisions that the obedient citizens carried out without asking themselves: Who needs this, and why? It is necessary, and that's all there is to it....

[Illesh] But was there any point in sending so many people to Chernobyl?

[Kambulov] That is just it, there was indeed no need to send hundreds of thousands of people to that radioactive garbage pit. Certainly, the station had to be shut down right away, you cannot put together any kind of "cover" immediately, you have to think about it for two-three years (during that time the radiation background will have diminished tens of times over), and only then begin the requisite work in a calm and organized manner. It would have saved so many lives and so many people's health. Not to mention money. They would not have had to clear away the radioactive garbage with spades and handbarrows, nor would have billions been poured into the construction of Slavutich, the power workers' city in a cesium blackspot, doomed to die, since the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Staiton would close anyway.

[Illesh] Fine, but build they did, and what did they build?

[Kambulov] As for the "sarcophagus" (officially, "Cover"), as someone who has studied everything that

remains of the fourth unit, from top to bottom, I can say that the structure does not give anyone much in the way of protection and does not cover anything. It was intended to protect the building, mangled by explosions and conflagrations, from prying eyes. The "Cover" is fine as decoration. But you could read a book inside it—it is so light as a result of a multitude of fissures. The roof is riddled with holes. The interchange of air with the environment is also in "full working order...." But how they built, how they went at it! In the frantic chase for honors there was no time to think about human beings, who were sent to the unit in their hundreds to do their futile work and get a dose of radiation. Criminal case No. 18/926-92 concerning instances of misconduct and negligence during the elimination of the aftermath of the accident did not come out of nowhere.... [passage omitted]

Kravchuk Says Chernobyl Must Remain in Operation

LD2504192394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1859 GMT 25 Apr 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Melnik for TASS]

[Text] Kiev April 25 TASS—"The Chernobyl nuclear plant works in a normal mode. As to its safety, it is in a much better condition than a year ago," Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said in an exclusive interview with UKRINFORM on Monday.

Its safety had been improved due to help on the part of many countries of the world, he remarked.

"I am aware that international community is concerned about the Chernobyl nuclear plant, because it is not a problem of Ukraine only," Kravchuk said.

"If (foreign countries) want to give us a real help, then appropriate funds should be alloted and we should solve the Chernobyl problem jointly," he said.

"Whatever might be said about the Chernobyl nuclear plant, we cannot afford to close it down because of energy crisis in Ukraine," he concluded.

Commentary on Safety at Nuclear Missile Site

AU2804104994 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 26 Apr 94 pp 1,3

[Viktor Krokhmalyuk commentary: "Beware: Disinformation!"]

[Text] KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA published an article by its correspondent Olga Musafirova under the title "The Hetman [Bohdan Khmelnytskyy] With a Nuclear Mace; There Is No Strength To Hold It, and It Is Terrifying To Drop It.... Khmelnytskyy Is Agitated by Rumors." Here is a quotation from that publication: "At the site near Bohdanivtsi, 20 liquid-fuel SS-18 missiles seem to have been disabled and dismantled. There arose some problems with the storage of the "liquid," and heptyl, a poison of group "S" that is extremely toxic for all living organisms, is already poisoning the surrounding woods."

In this connection, a news conference was held at Ukraine's Security Service Administration in Khmelnytskyy Oblast.

What actually happened? Missile specialist Ye. Arkhypov has this to say:

"Today, about 90 launchers have been taken off the alert—one regiment here and one—in Pervomaysk. The technology for pouring out the liquid fuel is such that no environmental damage may occur as a result. It is carried out by the method involving high pressure, and, therefore, not a single drop of heptyl may get either into the soil or onto the people servicing these operations."

Colonel Ye. Arkhypov also said that the system of control over the course of dangerous operations has a triple and, in some cases, fivefold guarantee. Work on servicing missile sites is conducted, as usual, according to plan and systematically, and specialists from all countries arrive there, so that it would hardly be possible to conceal any problems from them.

In the near future, Khmelnytskyy missile specialists are expecting U.S. ecological safety inspectors; they will see what they themselves want to see and not what the Ukrainian side will recommend. Therefore, it is unlikely that our missile specialists may conceal anything even if they wanted to.

As emphasized at the news conference, nuclear fuel is too valuable a commodity to export or to sell at a very cheap price to CIS countries, in particular, to Russia, as some people are suggesting. The fuel remains on site, and then some of it is sent to special arsenals for storage and some—for processing at chemical plants. Such a component of propellant fuel as the oxidizing agent is a very important product for manufacturing mineral fertilizers. Today, we must also think about Ukraine's space future.

Recently, an accord was signed with Kazakhstan on the joint use of Baykonur. We will be able to operate Ukrainian missiles with our own fuel instead of paying thousands and millions of dollars for this.

I will add my personal remark: Even following the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA material under the provocative title "Khmelnytskyy Is Agitated by Rumors," the situation in the town is calm, and I did not see any signs of fear, panic, or complaints against the missile specialists stationed here.

Deputy Says U.S. 'Circles' To Help Elect Kravchuk

WS2704075794 Lvov POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Speaking at a news conference held in Lvov on 25 April, People's Deputy Yaroslav Kendzior said that after

holding talks with a number of Ukrainian lawmakers with different political views, Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch, and President Leonid Kravchuk, he came to the conclusion that "presidential elections will, most probably, take place." According to Kendzior, Plyushch categorically insists that the elections be held in June, while Kravchuk "still cherishes hope that the elections will be annulled or postponed."

Kendzior also pointed out that since President Kravchuk's recent visit to the United States, "certain circles in that state have had an interest in him and will help him become president of Ukraine."

Kuchma Ready To Cooperate With Parties, Conduct Dialog

WS2704164994 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1400 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] We are ready to conduct a dialog with various political forces, both left and right, in the new parliament, former Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma stated. At a press conference devoted to problems related to forging a parliamentary faction of the Interregional Bloc for Reforms [MBR], he said he is ready to cooperate with all parties and movements, but only on issues of mutual interest. In this case, Leonid Kuchma noted, I do not rule out negotiations with Vyacheslav Chornovil. In the recent election, the former prime minister said, those who bet on Ukraine's self- isolation failed. Speaking on the country's economic situation, the MBR leader noted that the West is right in calling Ukraine Central European Columbia. Without privatization and the complete restructuring of the country's economy, Western capital will not come to us. The United States of America, Leonid Kuchma said, will not give Ukraine a penny until it makes sure that Ukrainian economy is stable and receives guarantees for the capital invested into it.

Kuchma: Plyushch Holds 'All Power in Ukraine'

LD2604202494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1839 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The former speaker of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, Ivan Plyushch, has the biggest chance to win the 1994 presidential elections in the republic, the former prime minister, leader of the Interregional Bloc for Reforms (IBR), Leonid Kuchma, told a news conference in Kiev Tuesday. In his opinion, Plyushch "is holding all power in Ukraine."

Asked about the possibility of the new parliament's cancelling the presidential elections scheduled for June 26 1994, Kuchma noted: "It would be desirable if we started to respect laws we have passed." In his opinion, the new parliament should not start its work with cancelling decisions made by its predecessor.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has been insisting on cancelling the previous parliament's decision to hold the presidential elections on June 26.

At the same time, Kuchma said he saw postponing the elections as no tragedy. The candidates should possess "a plan of specific activities instead of the desire to prolong the agony of the country's economy as a whole."

The former prime minister pointed out that it would be more favorable for him as a candidate for the Ukrainian presidency, if Kravchuk took part in the elections, which would considerably reduce Plyushch's chances.

Kuchma pointed to the need to adopt tough measures to surmount the economic crisis. In his opinion, Ukraine's economy saw a state of emergency on the brink of a disaster.

The parliamentary faction of the IBR created at a party meeting Tuesday consists of 21 deputies and is called Interregional Deputies' Faction Center. Its first meeting was scheduled for May 5.

Communist Party for Abolition of Presidency

LD2604180694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Communist party chief in Lvov Aleksandr Golub says Ukrainian communists will throw their weight behind any left-wing candidate for the presidency who will agree to become the country's last president.

In an interview with Interfax-Ukraine, he said the institution of presidency for Ukraine was both alien and ineffective because of historical traditions and polarization between the eastern and western parts of the country.

He said the communist party had won more than ten million votes in the recent elections, an indication that "the left-wing forces are back in the country's political life for good." At the same time, Golub said the left groups which had not counted on winning a third of parliamentary seats were seeing their success as a sign of credibility on the ground.

Communist deputies will be working hard to try to stabilize the economy and carry out tax and price reforms, he said.

Golub blamed the country's economic and cultural setbacks on policies carried out by the regime of President Kravchuk propped up by nationalist-minded democrats and aimed to build up a capitalist society run by bureaucrats and criminal circles.

He described the new parliament as a body of seasoned technocrats and politicians rather than that of saviours of the nation or backyard prophets.

Electoral Commission Said Violating Law

WS2604160494 Kiev UKRAYINA MOLODA in Ukrainian 22 Apr 94 p 1

[Comment by Volodymyr Sumin, chairman of the Association of Ukrainian Lawyers: "Election of Hrynyov,

Kudyukin, and Some Other Newly Elected Deputies Should Be Declared Invalid"]

[Text] Before going down in history (if not into oblivion), the "old" parliament will laud itself at its last meeting this evening in a bid to gain moral satisfaction. As to material satisfaction, each of the people's servants did his best to get it in accordance with his own efforts and perceived needs during his time in office. However, in addition to the barrel loads of praise which the former deputies will undoubtedly heap upon each other, several urgent matters are awaiting the deputies. In particular, despite their present state of relaxation, they will have to confront numerous reports on violation of the Electoral Law, which they themselves passed. Specifically, these were cases of elections with only a single candidate contesting—only one candidate running—in four districts. In each of them, there were ten or more contenders running in the first round. Here is how Volodymyr Sumin, chairman of the Association of Ukrainian Lawyers, comments on this issue.

[Sumin] Of course, it is strange that certified lawyers from the Central Election Commission deliberately—because that's how it was—violated the law. Not only does Ivan Yemets, head of the commission, take the liberty of bending the law, he also claims that it is absolutely right to do so. The law clearly states that the elections must be held with more than one candidate. I agree, somebody can die or withdraw his candidacy. In this case, however, the next best-rated candidate is proposed. We are not talking about districts where only one candidate was put forward—there were none during this election. Instead, there were four districts, where one of the two candidates decided not to run for parliament in the second round, and so the election was held without an opponent. Our position is that a repeat election must be called in each of those districts, and that the "victors" should also participate, because technically, it is not their fault that they remained alone in the second round. It is the fault of the commission, and a repeat election must be held. Thus, the four newly elected deputies, including Volodymyr Hrynyov, head of the "Blasko" joint stock company, Pavlo Kudyukin, and others will have to prove their right to sit in parliament once again.

I hope that the Supreme Council, which will hold its last meeting on 22 April, will correct the commission and its chairman's mistake; perhaps, it might even assess the actions of Ivan Yemets. I feel sorry for Ivan Yemets, who has worked all his life in the [state] apparatus and became its servant. Obviously, he performed some function in this apparatus, but no lawyer can act this way. There is no reason for Ivan Yemets to charge the Association of Ukrainian Lawyers with interfering in the election procedure. On the contrary, we helped him with our analysis and expertise on the violations reported by the people as well as by parliamentary candidates, and which we also witnessed ourselves. Analyzing the reaction of the commission and its head, one gets the feeling that the law was violated to please someone or something, not because of any lack of knowledge.

Socialist Party Leader States Views, Goals

AU2504150194 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Apr 94 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Socialists Sacrifice Their Positions. For the Sake of the State"]

[Text] At the news conference in Kiev, leaders of Ukraine's Socialist Party were not as confident as Communists, but they did not look too depressed either, as, according to them, they had received 15 mandates in the parliament. Moreover, leader of Ukraine's Socialist Party and twice [dvichi] deputy O. Moroz stated that the party had been faced with two variants of choosing their further fate. First, a variant that would be advantageous for the party, which does not have a single representative in the power structures and may, therefore, quietly assume tough opposition to the present authorities that have nothing much to be proud of. However, the Fourth Extraordinary Congress of Ukraine's Socialist Party voted for the other unremunerative variant in accordance with which the party, for the sake of building the state and preventing the economic collapse, will seek contacts with all political forces capable of constructive compromise.

In O. Moroz's opinion, the main result of the elections is an open regionalization of our society in terms of political convictions: The west—in favor of Nationalists and National Democrats; and the east, center, and south—mainly supporting left-wingers. "Not a single presidential candidate can bring all of these moods to agreement," said O. Moroz and acknowledged the fact that National Democrats (Rukh [Ukraine's People's Movement for Perestroyka] and the Ukrainian Republican Party) are also worried by the radicalization of the right-wing center. O. Moroz tactfully failed to note that the same had happened to the left-wing center. Nominated as a presidential candidate, O. Moroz openly said this about his goals: "If we win, we will implement the program of the Socialist Party. We will build an independent and strong democratic state with a socially oriented economy. We will build a people's democratic republic." He also pointed out that Socialists were not against privatization in general, but that they protested against its today's antipeople variant, which does not promote economic efficiency, but enriches a small group of dodgers.

Poll Refutes Support for Union With Russia

WS2704134194 Lvov VYSOKYY ZAMOK in Ukrainian 23 Apr 94 p 2

[Commentary by Mykola Slyusarevskyy, director of the Scientific-Practical Center of Political Psychology at Ukraine's Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, and Vadym Vasyutynskyy, head of the Laboratory for the Psychology of Masses and Organizations: "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 'Experts' Are Free From Truth"]

[Text] KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has published a bewildering article by "an independent expert group" under the expressive title "'Probable' Plans of Improbable Enemy." This probable enemy of Russia is, as it turns out, Ukraine.

Since the article mentions our center and refers to the results of our "secret" (classified) sociological research, we want to clarify some points and make the "secret" open.

Thus, the Scientific-Practical Center of Political Psychology at Ukraine's Academy of Pedagogical Sciences (until quite recently, it was attached to the Institute of the Psychology at this Academy) has actually prepared and conducted a large-scale poll among Ukraine's citizens living in different regions of the country. From the very beginning, this research was not secret. The preliminary and final results (not all, because even up to now they have not been analyzed in full) were many times publicized in the media (in the press and on the radio) and presented at a scientific conference. In addition, the research was carried out on our own initiative, according to plans of scientific work, and not as "Kravchuk's assignment", as it was stated for some reasons by the authors of the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA article.

We were amazed by the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA passage stating that from 50 to 80 percent of population in Ukraine's southern and eastern regions "support unification with Russia or transfer to Russia's jurisdiction."

In fact, the direct question whether Ukraine should be independent was answered in the affirmative by 60.5 percent, with 18.4 percent undecided, and 21.1 percent opposed. These results come from the entire Ukraine.

In three eastern oblasts (without Donbass)—Dnipropetrovska [Dnepropetskov], Zaporizka, and Kharkivska, 49.2 percent of votes supported the independence, 18.5 percent were undecided, and 32.3 percent were opposed. In two Donbass oblasts—Donetska [Donetsk] and Luhanska, the vote distribution was 40 percent, 22.9 percent, and 37.1 percent respectively. In the southern oblasts—Mykolayivska, Odesska, and Khersonska, the support for Ukraine's independent status proved to be still more stronger: 52 percent voted "yes", 23. 5 percent remained undecided, and 24.5 percent voted "no." Even in the Crimea, the situation does not looks as it was presented by the authors of "independent expertise"—Ukraine's independence was accepted by 37 percent of those polled and opposed by 31.5 percent, while 31.5 percent remained undecided.

We would draw attention of these respected "experts" to one more fact. The idea that Ukraine will overcome its crisis only if it is divided into federal lands (here is a suitable opportunity for the transfers to Russia's jurisdiction!) was accepted by 8.9 percent of those polled throughout Ukraine.

Now, we will present the responses of residents of those regions which "are striving to escape Ukraine for Russia." In the three eastern oblast, this opinion was accepted by 16.9 percent of citizens (unaccepted by 46.9 percent); in Donbass—12.1 (51.7); in the south—6.9 (62.8); and in the Crimea—3.7 (53.7). Thus, even if the Crimean sticks by to its poll results, it is not the way, in which some would like to do.

Still, from where have our unknown "colleagues" collected such "interesting" data? It is possible that they interpreted—in their original way—the fact that Ukraine's participation in the CIS economic union was supported by 58.4 percent of those polled, in particular, in the east—69.8 percent, in Donbass—83.2 percent, in the south—74.8 percent, and in the Crimea—81.5 percent. If one identified the CIS with "the single and indivisible" [Russia—words in quotation marks in Russian], one would conclude that not only the south and east, but entire Ukraine is striving to embrace "elder brother," whereas the referendum on 1 December 1991 was only an unpleasant misunderstanding. Is this not the point of which KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA "independent experts" were trying to convince us?

Columnist Views Relations With U.S.

WS2604131194 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 22 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by UNIAN correspondent Volodymyr Teteruk: "Ukrainian Army Is More Reliable Than Its Economy"]

[Text] After the signing of the trilateral declaration by the Russian, U.S., and Ukrainian presidents in Moscow in January 1994, the foreign policy gap between Washington and Kiev has been lessened primarily due to Ukraine observing its commitments. However aside from compensation for nuclear arms removed from our territory—$175 million—the United States is going to earmark another $10 million for the creation in Kiev of an international scientific center that would employ scientists who used to work in defense industries. According to U.S. experts, Ukraine should receive some $1 billion for the weapons-grade uranium extracted from nuclear warheads.

However, it is too early to speak of direct economic assistance for our state, that is investments, the sponsoring of foreign trade, and so on. People from U.S. financial and business circles prefer a reserved stance regarding investments in the Ukrainian economy. Inflation, the absence of market infrastructure and mechanisms to protect investments make Ukraine unattractive for businessmen.

U.S. experts link economic chaos in Ukraine to the current leadership's inability to resolve economic issues. Analyzing the results of Ukrainian legislative elections, a correspondent of the influential THE NEW YORK TIMES in particular points out: "Mr. Kravchuk used to talk about reform a lot, but he did nothing to implement it. At the same time, he kept criticizing the former

legislature for hampering his efforts." Similar skeptical remarks about the activities of Leonid Kravchuk and his team in the economic sphere, however, are fully compensated in the sphere of foreign policy.

In the opinion of the West, the Ukrainian head of state reaped dividends by signing the tripartite declaration. Ukraine's gradual nuclear disarmament and access to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty is now connected with the name of Kravchuk. For the United States, this issue is much more actual than problems of the Ukrainian economy. That is why Kravchuk, despite his inability to carry out economic reform, has become very popular with Americans due to the service he paid to the United States. Washington understands perfectly well that under the current Ukrainian Administration, economic changes in our state will have to wait. That is why there are attempts to limit U.S.-Ukrainian relations to those areas that can yield much more than risky investment in our economy. One such sphere concerns the military, where U.S. interests are being gradually shifted from Russia toward Ukraine. The primary reason for this is probably official Kiev's consent to disarm, as opposed to the ever growing aggressiveness of Moscow's foreign policy and attempts to enter the superpowers' club.

The United States and NATO are currently concerned over the concentration of Russian forces pulled out from Central and East Europe along Russia's southern (the northern Caucasian military district) and northern (the Leningrad military district) borders. Under the provisions of the Treaty on the Reduction of Conventional Arms in Europe signed in 1990, Russia is to reduce its hardware so that by November 1995, 580 armored vehicles, 700 tanks, and 1,280 artillery pieces remain in each of these districts.

According to U.S. analysts, however, Russia is very sluggishly reducing its arms and by the deadline in 1995 will still have a surplus 2,000 armored vehicles, 400 tanks, and 500 artillery pieces. Russia's desire to concentrate a large amount of hardware along its borders is no secret. During the March conference between U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry and Russian Army Chief of Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov in Moscow, the Russian general directly stated that it is necessary to review the quotas of arms stipulated by the treaty.

At any rate, until November 1995 Russia has the legal right to keep unlimited amounts of arms along its borders, despite negative reactions by Turkey, Norway, and other NATO members.

In this situation, the United States may display interest in Ukraine as a possible "buffer zone" between Russia and East Europe. The Partnership for Peace project, to which Ukraine has acceded, envisions joint maneuvers and at the same time does not bind NATO's hands with commitments.

In light of the current realities, future U.S.-Ukrainian relations will hardly cross the framework of military cooperation.

Belarus

Government to Support Producers of Basic Necessities

LD2504195294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1810 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Text] Minsk 25 April BELINFORM-TASS—The Byelorussian (Belarusian) Government announced on Monday [25 April] a programme of state support for the producers of basic necessities in the Republic.

The move has been prompted by the worsening financial status of enterprises making consumer goods, especially in the light industry.

Rampant inflation, unstable money circulation, decline in the buying power of the population and insolvency of partners have caused a decrease in the production of key goods and negatively affected their competitiveness on the domestic market. Additionally, enterprises have been using their industrial potential and personnel resources by only 50 per cent.

The resolution adopted by the Byelorussian Government envisages a number of measures aimed at stabilising and increasing the production of basic goods, improving the situation in the domestic market and boosting exports of consumer goods.

The Government has requested the National Bank of Byelorussia to allocate 150 billion roubles to the light industry at a discount interest rate to buy wool, cotton and fur in 1994 and another 50 billion roubles to offset mutual debts with its partners.

Hryb Reports on Visit to European Parliament, Bucharest

WS2704083794 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Mechyslaw Hryb and members of a governmental delegation—Deputy Prime Minister Syarhey Linh and Ivan Tsyareshka, chairman of the Supreme Soviet permanent commission for international matters—have held a news conference at the Supreme Soviet. The news conference was devoted to the results of the delegation's participation in the session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The Belarusian delegation, Mechyslaw Hryb said, proposed to discuss issues concerning mutual relations with European countries and prospects for cooperation in various spheres of life. The talks followed this direction.

I have understood, Mechyslaw Hryb said, that we are moving toward the European Union, toward the European Parliament, very slowly. We should have been there long ago, because people in Europe have scarcely heard of us—they believe that we are still living under totalitarianism without any changes. However, during our talks at the European Parliament, they were convinced that this is not the case any longer.

After leaving Strasbourg, our delegation arrived in Bucharest, where it participated in the Transmontana forum devoted to various political and economic issues facing European countries.

Further Details on Karpenka's News Conference

WS2604162994 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Mikalay Halko: "Henadz Karpenka Has an Answer to Any Question"]

[Text] On 19 April at the House of Publishing, People's Deputy Henadz Dzmitryyevich Karpenka, [leader of the Party of People's Accord] one of the candidates for the presidential office, held a news conference with journalists.

The first issue he considered necessary to emphasize was that he will not fight with his opponents by collecting compromising materials against them. Henadz Dzmitryyevich briefed on his meetings with company staffs in Brest and Kobryn. Even though high officials were trying to obstruct these meetings—since, according to Karpenka, they had been requested to support [Prime Minister Vyacheslaw] Kebich, the talks were constructive. In general, Karpenka believes, the interests of the working class remain undefended.

Which problems does Karpenka consider most urgent? The first most painful problem is the lack of housing (the candidate has his own proposals in this regard); second—stabilization of enterprises' work; third—reasonable reorganization of the taxation system.

When the conversation touched upon the ruble zone and the agreement signed in Moscow, Henadz Dzmitryyevich quite sharply criticized eulogies published in the press in this regard, since such a campaign has only one goal—to support Kebich. Karpenka said that the document should have been signed three years ago. At that time however, Vyacheslaw Frantsavich had a different opinion and wanted to create a "financial zoo" [relates to nicknames of the Belarusian currency] in Belarus. He has currently renounced this idea. It was not the first time Karpenka publicly stated that the Cabinet of Ministers is stuck in a political mire and neglects economic issues, which is the reason behind the current economic collapse. The Cabinet of Ministers has wasted three years on blabbing and now it is describing the signing of the Moscow agreement as an astonishing achievement.

Continuing to answer the questions concerning the ruble zone, Henadz Dzmitryyevich voiced concern over the fact that the methods of establishing the zone do not conform to Belarus' interests, but are dictated by Russia's powerful economic organizations. However, as Karpenka believes, in two or three months, everyone will

see that we have received another "useless scrap of paper," as has already happened before. The people have heard many sweet promises of Kebich. Where are those promises now?

The presidential candidate provided examples of Minsk Oblast officials who have been neglecting agricultural problems, conducting a smear campaign against the Molodechno City Council chairman instead, which vividly describes the rotten administrative system and its immorality.

Karpenka also presented his opinion on the agricultural sector. Perhaps Vasil Staravoytaw, the well known chairman of the Rassvet kolkhoz, whom Karpenka highly respects, has something to do with that. His agrarian program envisions a unique approach and advocates support for large and medium-sized kolkhozes; small ones can be transformed into farms.

It is impossible to relate all topics addressed at the news conference. Karpenka provided comprehensive answers to all questions, including those concerning his family. His adversaries used to claim that he is the son-in-law of this or that secretary of the Communist Party of Belarus [KPB] Central Committee. As a matter of fact, Karpenka's father-in-law has nothing to do with the KPB Central Committee.

Unfortunately, attempts to drag someone through the mire have not disappeared, but have become even more frequent. Karpenka won journalists' sympathy thanks to his openness, erudition, and ability to deeply analyze the state of affairs.

Official Views Consequences of Chernobyl Accident

AU2604144294 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 26 Apr 94 p 12

[Interview with Nikolay Martinovich Morkovskiy, deputy chairman of the "state committee for the elimination of the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe in Belarus," by Dietmar Ostermann: "Therefore, This Must Never Be Forgotten"]

[Text] [Ostermann] Eight years after the reactor accident at Chernobyl, many have done with the maximum credible accident or take it as a proof that the world also overcomes such catastrophes. Belarus was among those who suffered most from the consequences. Is all that already forgotten and over?

[Morkovskiy] Twenty-two percent of our territory is still radioactively contaminated. One-fifth of the Belarusian population lives there. An area of the size of your Saarland cannot be used; 130,000 people were resettled. We had to build new apartments, outpatients' departments, schools, and whole cities. The program is being continued. Belarus is spending 12 percent of its state budget on the elimination of the consequences of Chernobyl. And that is after eight years!

I do not think that one can say that we have forgotten Chernobyl.

[Ostermann] Nevertheless, many affected persons are complaining about a lack of support; 45,000 Belarusians are still living in highly contaminated areas.

[Morkovskiy] Not all of them want to leave. In May 1986, one week after the catastrophe, I myself organized the first evacuations in the rural district of Narovlya. At that time, we were not properly briefed ourselves, and the people did not believe in the danger and wanted to stay. Then they nailed up their doors and windows with boards and said: We will come back in three weeks.

Out of the 320,000 inhabitants of the district, 12,000 still live there, although half of the district is still part of the "prohibited zone" with a radiation of more than 15 curie per square km and everyone has the right to free resettlement. This also applies to the city of Narovlya itself, where 12,000 people lived before. Out of the 7,000 inhabitants who stayed there, only 1,000 applied for resettlement. The others wanted to stay.

[Ostermann] Former helpers after the catastrophe and radiation victims are threatening a hunger strike, in order to draw attention to their disastrous situation, among them there are also Belarusians. Are all of them to blame themselves?

[Morkovskiy] I have not heard anything of that. Perhaps you are right that the situation is deteriorating. I also belong to the categories of liquidators. The diseases from which I am suffering need not come from radiation. They may also be due to the nervous strain that was so great in all those years. One looks at oneself and asks oneself: How come? In a poor country there are many problems, also without Chernobyl.

[Ostermann] Nor can you say that to a mother whose child has increased levels of radioactive iodine in its thyroid nor to a person suffering from cancer who has to wait for treatment for months.

[Morkovskiy] Many things were planned, but the money is lacking. In 1989, the Soviet Parliament adopted a program for the elimination of the consequences, but the Soviet Union does not exist any longer. Today, the means that are available to us suffice just for a quarter of the planned measures. If we were to implement everything, we would have to spend half of our state budget. This would ruin us.

[Ostermann] Does this mean that the other republics abandoned the program?

[Morkovskiy] Ukraine refrains from helping us in any way, although an agreement provided for it. Last year, Russia supported us with 8.5 billion rubles. We bought medicine and medical equipment with the money.

[Ostermann] Russia and Ukraine have again taken a fancy to nuclear power. Moscow is planning new nuclear

reactors, Kiev does not switch off Chernobyl despite numerous incidents. What does Belarus think of it?

[Morkovskiy] If some have the advantages and some the damage, one comes to different opinions. Two-thirds of the areas that were contaminated in the Soviet Union at that time are in Belarus. Chernobyl is in Ukraine and supplies the Ukrainians with electricity. Our parliament called for the shutdown of the power plant in a resolution. From our point of view, this is probably justified.

[Ostermann] Kiev argues that it cannot afford to switch it off.

[Morkovskiy] Perhaps it is better to be a little afraid than to die of cold and hunger. This cannot be definitely said, there are pros and cons. In Belarus the situation is clear: We do not have nuclear power plants, but we have the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe. And nuclear power plants are everywhere at our borders—in Smolensk, Chernobyl, near Rivne and Ignalina.

[Ostermann] Western experts remembered Chernobyl punctually on the anniversary of the catastrophe and they are warning against a new catastrophe. Are you alarmed?

[Morkovskiy] I think that there would not have been an explosion if rules had not been violated at that time. Irresponsibility and the violation of norms led to it. However, I am an agronomist, not a nuclear physicist. There should be projects that are completely safe. In this way, however, the danger to the people remains. Therefore, one must never forget what happened here.

IMF Mission Arrives To Discuss Additional Credits

WS2604132594 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] An IMF mission has arrived in Minsk to continue talks with the government on granting the second part of a credit to Belarus in the amount of $98 million. As is known, the first credit in the same amount was allotted by the IMF last summer due to the government's simultaneous signing of a memorandum on economic policy. The fulfillment of the memorandum's conditions by the government, which provide for radical market transformations with concrete terms of their implementation, is being taken by the IMF as a basis during talks on granting the second credit.

According to experts, the main difficulty in the talks will be an uncertain fate facing further Belarusian monetary and credit policies in connection with the declared monetary merger with the Russian Federation. IMF credits are intended to equalize the balance of payments in the country which gave [as heard] a loan.

Parliament Head on Monetary Union, Parliamentary Elections

LD2604164194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1442 GMT 26 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Belarussian [Belarusian] parliament speaker Mechyslaw Hryb predicts social tensions in connection with the current presidential campaign. He told a press conference on Tuesday that the Central Electoral Commission had officially registered the support groups of 19 candidates. Hryb also said that the current developments in Belarus must be closely followed.

Commenting on the agreement on the unification of the Belarussian and Russian monetary systems and on its compliance with the constitution, above all the provision on the powers of the National Bank of Belarus, Hryb said that interpretation of laws and state documents was the exclusive prerogative of the parliament.

He also announced that the problem of parliamentary elections would be considered during the spring parliamentary session. In experts' estimate, this means that the current parliament will perform its duties until the end of the constitution-provided term and that early parliamentary elections will not be held.

Among the main issues to be discussed during the emergency session opening on 27 April, is elections of the Constitutional Court and amendments in the customs legislation that are expected to cancel customs duties in Russian-Belarussian trade, given the forthcoming unification of the monetary systems.

Economy Minister on Introduction of National Currency

LD2604190394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1846 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Minsk 26 April TASS—Belarus does not have economic conditions for the introduction of a national currency and its security, Belarussian Vice-Premier and Minister of Economy Syarhey Linh told a news conference here today.

In his opinion, when introducing a national currency "one should avoid the mistakes of Commonwealth nations whose currencies collapsed within several weeks". This measure requires a hard currency reserve or a gold stock equal to $500-700 million, which Belarus does not have.

"That is why, we have so far decided on the Russian ruble. Time will show," said Linh.

Asked whether the treaty on unification of Russian and Belarussian monetary systems violates the Belarussian Constitution, Parliament Speaker Mechyslaw Hryb said the juridical service of the Belarussian Supreme Soviet has made the following conclusion on the basis of the republican constitution: "An article of the Belarussian fundamental law on the Belarussian National Bank says it shall have the right to monetary emission but there is no indication of the currency unit. It can be either Belarussian money or money of any other state."

Deputies Uphold Constitutionality of Monetary Merger

WS2704130694 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Recorded report by Mikhail Rudkowski]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] By a majority vote, Supreme Soviet deputies have declined the question of violations of the Constitution in connection with the signing of the monetary merger agreement with Russia. This motion was supported by only 63 votes.

Since the former—13th—Supreme Soviet session did not adopt a resolution on the activity of the temporary commission for combating corruption, which is headed by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, this issue was again included on the session agenda. However, this issue was declined by a majority vote. [passage omitted]

Kebich Says Money Merger To Stabilize Belarus

LD2504180094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1558 GMT 25 Apr 94

[Report by BELINFORM correspondent Tereza Khayutina for TASS]

[Text] Minsk 25 April TASS—The agreement on the merger of monetary systems signed with Russia will help Byelorussia [Belarus] stabilise and improve the situation in the republic by the end of the year, Byelorussian Prime minister Vyacheslav Kebich said.

Speaking at a meeting with law enforcers in Minsk on Monday, Kebich said that the fist part of the agreement reducing customs tariffs will enter into force on May 1 and allow enterprises to sell their products and receive orders.

"Additionally, the prices of basic goods and communal services will be frozen in May. People's well-being will begin to grow due to increases in wages and salaries and implementation of targeted social programmes," he said.

Kebich believes that one of the factors that has allowed the Byelorussian economy to survive is that it has preserved "even relations with Russia. They have remained unchanged even in conditions when our local nationalist reformers celebrated their 'victory' over 'Muscovites' near Orsha or unwind in their absurd articles a new spiral of Russophobia."

Kebich also pointed to the "conscientious rejection of shock therapy" and "populism, adventurism and nationalism" as major factors that helped preserve stability in Byelorussia.

Moldova

Parliament Ratifies CIS Charter

LD2604171394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1651 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeliy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau], 26 Apr—The deputies of the Moldovan Parliament today ratified the CIS charter. There were 76 votes in favor and 18 against. The charter was signed by Moldovan President Mircea Snegur at the most recent meeting of the heads of CIS states in Moscow.

President Meets Leader of 'Self-Proclaimed' Gagauz Republic

LD2704183194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1809 GMT 27 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolai Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovsky; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Mircea Snegur met on Wednesday morning President of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic Stepan Topal and chairman of the Gagauz parliament Mikhail Kendigelian. The meeting was held behind closed doors and journalists in Kishinev received official information of its results.

The spokesman for the Gagauz leader, Andrei Ibrishim, told Interfax that the two presidents discussed status of the regions densely populated by the Gagauz. He said that the bilateral commission was working successfully and the draft law may be worked out shortly and submitted to parliament within a month.

The spokesman refused to disclose the essence of the discussed document. He said, However, it coincides largely with the earlier bill on a special legal status of Gagauzia with account of proposals of the CSCE standing commission and US independent experts.

Another problem urgent for Snegur is the settlement of the situation in Transdniestria. Chairman of the parliament of the self-proclaimed Transdniestrian Moldovan Republic, Grigory Marakutsa, said that another round of the Moldovan-Transdniestrian talks would be held shortly. Leaders of Kishinev and Tiraspol deputies of both parliaments and senior Russian officials are expected to take part.

According to Marakutsa, following recent elections in Moldova, the situation for Tiraspol changed for the better and hopefully, the two sides will agree to compromise. The Transdniestrian leader believes that Kishinev should agree to the creation of a confederative state to settle the situation. He said that Transdniestria will be part of such a state until Moldova is a sovereign state. However, the official Kishinev is flatly against the variant, said Marakutsa. Its rapprochement with Romania has suspended so far and no one will guarantee that this will never happen.

Kazakhstan

Li Peng Thanks Nazarbayev for Realistic Approach

LD2604175694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1634 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] During his talks with the leadership of Kazakhstan the Premier of the Chinese State Council Li Peng thanked President Nursultan Nazarbayev for a balanced and realistic approach to all aspects of bilateral relations. This was disclosed at a Tuesday briefing in Alma-Ata [Almaty] by a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

He said Nazarbayev is not letting Eastern Turkestan, an organization of separatists from several Central Asian countries claiming territories in North China, to engage in subversive activities against China from Kazakhstan. The Kazakh leader also views Taiwan as an inseparable part of China.

The spokesman said that the calls made at a Tuesday rally in Alma-Ata organized by the Nevada-Semipalatinsk movement and Eastern Turkestan to stop nuclear tests at Lobnor test ground are senseless because no nuclear tests are conducted there.

The official said Li Peng invited Nazarbayev to visit China at a time suitable for him for the final settlement of remaining border problems.

Sets Out Principles for Cooperation

LD2704032294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1918 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Almaty, 26 Apr—The six principles on which China intends to build its economic relations with the states of Central Asia were set out today by Li Peng, prime minister of the PRC State Council, as he addressed representatives of Kazakhstan's business circles while on an official visit here.

In the opinion of the Chinese side, cooperation must be based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit and should be practiced in accordance with economic laws. Partners must heed each other's needs, abide by the principle of equivalent exchanges, maintain a balance of trade and regulate it, if necessary. The creation of joint ventures must be in the interests of the participants and aim to develop the economies of the participating countries.

Second, the forms of cooperation must be diversified. At present, the exchange of goods forms the greater part of all economic exchanges. In Beijing's view, proper trade must be the main tendency in this sphere. To this end, it is necessary to improve the conditions for the performance of banking operations. The Chinese Government fully shares the Central Asian states' desire to develop relations with various areas in the PRC, supplementing their links with the neighboring Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

Third, economic cooperation must originate from the specific conditions and muster all the local resources. Full account must be taken of the market development prospects from the outset of the creation of joint ventures, which must provide a good economic return and produce competitive output.

Fourth, as a new "Silk Road" is built, transport and communications must inevitably be improved. The prime minister of the PRC State Council pointed out, in this connection, the importance of the agreement concluded in this field during the current visit. In Li Peng's view, China and Kazakhstan must make every effort to ensure the vigorous functioning of this transport "bridge" between Europe and Asia.

Fifth, the small amount of economic aid that we have been able to give the states of Central Asia, the premier stressed, is only a symbol for the PRC people's friendly feelings toward their neighbors. China is itself a developing country at the moment and is trying to improve its economy.

Sixth, China intends to promote multilateral cooperation so that everyone may develop. The PRC is conducting an "open door" policy toward the developing, as well as the developed, countries, and particularly toward neighboring countries, Li Peng observed. As it develops its links with the states of Central Asia, China would like to see a growth in their trade, the strengthening of economic ties and friendly contacts with other countries. We are ready for honest and equal competition, the Chinese leader said.

As he concluded his speech, Li Peng emphasized that China did not see Central Asia as a target for the expansion of its sphere of political and economic influence.

Tereshchenko, Li Peng Discuss Economic Ties

LD2704103194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0959 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Report by KAZTAG correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Almaty, 27 April (TASS)—During a meeting with Li Peng, premier of China's Council of State, here on Wednesday morning, Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko of Kazakhstan inquired about potentialities for China's participation in a broadening of trade with Kazakhstan, in a joint modernisation of the Karaganda metallurgical complex, in the establishment of transit motor transportation routes across the Republic and shipping along the border rivers Irtysh and Ili, and a realistic time-frame for the establishment of a free economic area near the border township of Khorgos.

Li said it is possible to enlarge the network of Chinese shops in Kazakhstan and joint trading ventures only provided the two countries make profit. He also emphasised that the quality of commodities which are supplied directly by state producers will be much higher and cheaper than that of those being delivered by profiteers from China.

As far as China's possible participation in the modernisation of the Karaganda metallurgical mill is concerned, the Chinese premier said it is essential at first to carry out an expert examination to determine the economic efficiency of the mill and gauge the competitive power of its products.

Speaking about transit transportation from Kazakhstan to Pakistan, which is being effected via Turkey and Iran, Li admitted that routes across China would reduce transportation distance by half. He expressed understanding of this aspect and suggested that the respective ministries of the two countries examine the matter.

Li took up a similar attitude as regards shipping along the Irtysh and Ili Rivers and the Khorgos Free Economic Area and its status.

The premiers of Kazakhstan and China expressed satisfaction with this exchange of views.

Li Peng Views Visit, Nuclear Weapons

LD2704153494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1504 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Report by KAZTAG correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty] 27 April TASS—Premier of the Chinese State Council Li peng said at a news conference in Alma-Ata devoted to the results of his visit to Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan that his talks with leaders of these countries were successful and contributed to further strengthening of friendship, mutual understanding and the expansion of economic, political and cultural ties.

The Chinese premier pointed out that China accounts for the smallest number of weapons of mass destruction possessed by nuclear states. The existence of such weapons has a purely defensive character and China pledged not to be the first to use such weapons, the Chinese premier said, reminding of basic principles of the Chinese military and political doctrine.

The Chinese premier pointed out, in particular, that a document on the inviolability of existing frontiers was signed between China and Kazakhstan for the first time. China expects to sign a similar document soon with Kyrgyzstan, Li Peng said.

Touching upon Russo-Chinese relations, Li Peng described them as "useful and fruitful."

Late on Wednesday the Chinese premier had a one-to-one meeting with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

On Thursday morning the Chinese premier and his entourage will leave Alma-Ata.

Says China May Halt Nuclear Tests by 1996

LD2704204594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2027 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty] 27 April TASS—China may stop nuclear weapon tests by 1996, visiting State Council Premier Li Peng told a news conference in the Kazakh capital of Alma-Ata on Wednesday.

The Chinese leader said his country was now taking an active part in the Geneva talks on armaments control. At present, Russia, the United States, Great Britain and France, which are also parties to these talks, have suspended nuclear tests.

The latest regular nuclear test was performed in China last October, after which a rise in background radiation was registered in Kazakh areas bordering on China.

Ends Visit, Leaves for Mongolia

LD2804062194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0424 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty], 28 Apr—Having completed his official visit to Kazakhstan, Li Peng, the prime minister of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, left Kazakhstan's capital this morning. It remained unclear until the last minute whether the Chinese delegation would fly to Mongolia, where the situation is tense at the moment, or to China. It has just been revealed by well-informed sources that the delegation went to Ulaanbaatar, from where it is to return to Beijing tomorrow night.

Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev and other officials saw Li Peng off at the Alma-Ata airport.

Nazarbayev Announces Border Agreement With PRC

LD2604145194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1342 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] An agreement on the Kazakh-Chinese border, stretching 1700 kilometers, is the main result of the Kazakh-Chinese talks, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev told a press conference on Tuesday.

He said that none of the former Soviet republics bordering on China had concluded such an agreement. He

also believes that this document reflects Kazakhstan's and China's determination to maintain stable, friendly relations.

Nazarbayev pointed out that the positions of the two states' leaders on the political situation in Asia were the same.

Both parties stated that the agreement between the Kazakh Transportation Ministry and the Chinese Railways Ministry lifted all limitations from the transit of cargo and passengers between China and Kazakhstan.

Nazarbayev announced that the agreement on the extension of a 50 million yuan credit will be used to broaden bilateral and invigorate border trade, to reconstruct the Karaganda steel mill and build enterprises putting out consumer goods.

Clinton Letter Supports Nazarbayev's Policy

LD2804091494 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0100 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Text] In connection with Nursultan Nazarbayev's recent visit to the United States, U.S. President Bill Clinton has addressed a greetings letter to the president of Kazakhstan. It says: Your recent visit to Washington boosted cooperation between the two countries. Kazakhstan is known for its peace and stability, its adherence to democracy, and its respect for human rights. The U.S. President once again highly evaluated Kazakhstan's decision to join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty and spoke about its importance for mankind. It was a great honor and pleasure to receive you in the White House, Bill Clinton said in his letter. He wished President Nazarbayev success and expressed support for his policy.

Cabinet Discusses Economic Performance Figures

PM2604152994 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Tleuzhan Yesilbayev: "Kazakhstan Without Meat or Butter"]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty]—Painful figures were cited at a routine sitting of the Kazakhstani Cabinet of Ministers a few days ago.

For instance, as of 1 April, 1,084 enterprises were either completely or partially standing idle in Kazakhstan. Electricity generation had fallen by 14 percent, and coal extraction by 10 percent. The extraction of oil, gas condensate, and gas had fallen. In the first three months of this year, the fall in production in the Republic's food industry alone was 33 percent. As a result the production of butter, milk, cheese, canned food, whole milk and fish products, flour, groats, and pasta products decreased. The acceleration of inflationary processes has been reflected in the material position of the Kazakhstanis. During the past year, average monthly earnings increased by a factor of only 14.2, while consumer prices went up by a factor of 23. The price of consumer services jumped even higher—by a factor of 24—but there was a record price hike in the housing sector—by a factor of 62. And you now have to pay 37 times more for medical services than you did a year ago.

In a word, the crisis in the economy and the social sphere has affected all strata of the population. Many Kazakhstanis are pinning their hopes for a better future on the professional parliament, whose first session opened last week.

Ambassador Mansurov Explains Eurasian Union Idea

PM2604160194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with Tair Mansurov, ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Russia, by Pavel Shinkarenko, under the rubric "Event of the Day"; place and date not given: "Instead of the CIS—the Eurasian Union? In Conversation with your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI Correspondent, Tair Mansurov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Considers New Forms of Deepening the Integration of the Post-Soviet Republics"]

[Text] The idea of creating a Eurasian Union consisting of the CIS member countries belongs to Nursultan Nazarbayev, president of Kazakhstan. When putting this idea forward at a meeting with professors and students of the Moscow State University, Nursultan Abishevich was being consistent. Several times previously he had put the proposal to strengthen cooperation among the former Union republics to his colleagues in the Commonwealth. He received the Treaty on Economic Union with satisfaction and supported the Collective Security Treaty. Now there is this new initiative.

"It is hard to call the present CIS a Commonwealth," Kazakhstani Ambassador Tair Mansurov said, explaining his president's proposal. "In the three years of its existence over 400 joint documents have been adopted, but more than half of them have not been ratified by the national parliaments and those which have been ratified are not operating. In addition, some members of the CIS are in a state of open war and many are waging economic battles against one another. In these conditions it is hard to talk about the mutual aid and support, characteristic of a really integrated association..."

My interlocutor was a builder by trade, a politician by necessity. For more than 10 years he built homes and industrial facilities, worked for the party, was elected to Kazakhstan's Supreme Soviet, and represented his people in the USSR parliament's Soviet of the Republics. At the same time he directed the "Kazakhstan" development fund, which performs educational and cultural functions. In January 1994 he accepted N. Nazarbayev's proposal to head the embassy in Moscow. He recently presented his credentials to President Yeltsin. He is a convinced supporter of political and economic

union with Russia. He took part in the top-level talks during the Kazakhstani President's first official visit to Russia recently. He is proud of the fact that he has contributed to the elaboration of 23 draft interstate agreements signed at the level of presidents and heads of government, including the treaties on Baykonur and the simplification of the procedure for obtaining citizenship when residents move from Russia to Kazakhstan or vice versa.

"Nursultan Abishevich's new initiative—on the Eurasian Union—is on the same plane," Tair Mansurov explained. "The president's idea is that now, in conditions of the independence and equal rights of the republics, it is possible to create a completely new interstate association capable of overcoming the shortcomings of the present CIS...."

Tair Mansurov said that President Nazarbayev sees three main corner stones at the basis of the Eurasian Union:

—Common supranational organs for the coordination (management) of the economy, defense, and foreign policy;

—A single economic area; and

—A common defense complex.

The supranational institutions include councils of the heads of state and the heads of government, the parliament, councils of defense ministers and foreign ministers, and the interstate executive committee—a standing organ whose leader is appointed by the heads of state for a term specified by them. As for the single economic area, it can be built, for example, on such foundations as the coordination of economic policy and the adoption of obligatory joint programs, a common legislative base to regulate relations among the economic components, a supranational currency along the lines of the European ECU, the coordination of direct ties between enterprises, the creation of mixed and joint industrial-financial and transport firms, trading houses, and commodity exchanges. The defense and foreign policy complexes can be equally effective. Through its executive committee the Eurasian Union should receive the status of a fully-fledged representative in all the leading interstate organizations.

"It goes without saying that innovation is always greeted with caution," the ambassador said. "So it was that the reaction to the Eurasian Union was mixed too. It is a pity that Nursultan Abishevich was sick and unable to share his ideas with the participants in the Moscow summit. But we know that many projects that seemed unfeasible have in time been put into practice. I believe that the same fate is in store for the President of Kazakhstan's initiative.

Kyrgyzstan

Afghan Foreign Minister Visits, Discusses Border Issue

LD2704104594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1004 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek 27 April TASS—During a one-day visit to Bishkek, Afghan Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala discussed with Kirgiz diplomats the situation on the Afghan-Tajik border and development of the two countries' good-neighbourly relations. The Afghan Foreign Ministry's head is also to visit Tashkent on Wednesday [27 April].

The situation on the Afghan-Tajik border causes serious concern to the Kirgizia [Kyrgystan] because its troops are among the CIS peacekeeping forces guarding the border. Secondly, drugs and arms are illegally transported from Gorno Badakhshan in Tajikistan to Kirgizia. Besides, residents of Kirgizia's southern regions are concerned over rumours about opposition spring offensive on Badakhshan located not far from Kirgizia and home for a lot of ethnic Kirgizians.

Officials from Kirgiz security services state that the rumours about a forthcoming conflict in neighbouring Tajikistan do not correspond to reality. President Askar Akayev calls on the warring sides to begin negotiations. Nevertheless Kirgizia is concerned over every little change in the situation in Gorno Badakhshan.

Officials To Meet on Karabakh Dispute

LD2704123394 Bishkek KYRGYZKABAR in Russian 0938 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Talks on conflict settlement among Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno-Karabakh are to resume in the Kyrgyz capital between 3 and 5 May.

Speaker of the Kyrgyz Supreme Council Medetkan Sherimkulov, who has already held two rounds of talks with the warring sides, today received information that the chairmen of the supreme councils of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno-Karabakh—Babken Ararktsyan, Rasul Kuliyev, and Karen Baburiyan, respectively—will arrive in Bishkek for the talks. Baburiyan will take part in the talks for the first time.

The chairman of the Federation Council of Russia and head of the interparliamentary assembly of the CIS member-states, Vladimir Shumeyko, is also due to visit Kyrgyzstan at the time of the talks. He is expected not only to participate in the talks, but also to sign an agreement on interparliamentary cooperation between the Federation Council and Kyrgyzstan's Supreme Council. It has been suggested that a joint commission should be established to coordinate this cooperation.

Trade Group Signs Agreement With PRC Delegation

LD2704130694 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] An agreement on cooperation between the Chinese and the Kyrgyz chambers of trade and industry has been signed. On behalf of the Kyrgyz side it was signed by Boris [word indistinct], president of the Kyrgyz chamber of trade and industry. The agreement will open the prospect for fruitful cooperation with the PRC, in particular for the opening of Kyrgyz representation in Urumqi. It is also expected that the Republic will take part in the 5th Asian [words indistinct] exhibition in Beijing this June.

Tajikistan

Opposition Said Preparing for Large Offensive

LD2604125194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Tajik opposition forces are readying for an attack on the Ishkashimski border guard unit in Gorni Badakhshan.

According to military sources, the opposition forces are planning to disrupt efforts to defend the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border and to capture Army hardware and ammunition for their further use against Dushanbe Government troops.

The opposition buildup of up to 1,500 men is seen as a sign of preparations for the attack. Reconnaissance missions are being carried out to try to familiarize with the strength and technical capabilities as well as daily routine of the border guard units, and the system of fortifications under their control.

Both the command of the Russian border guards in Tajikistan and the unit's commanders are taking actions to be ready to rebuff possible attacks and insure the safety of their units.

Calls for Jihad Against Government

LD2704093794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0811 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 27 April TASS—Rizvon Alimardon, one of the leaders of irreconcilable Tajik armed opposition in exile, called on citizens of Tajikistan to support jihad (holy war) against the present regime in the republic.

He calls himself commander of united armed forces of Tajik Mujahideen. The appeal was printed in leaflets circulated in some residential areas of Dushanbe on Tuesday [26 April] as well as in the suburban Kofirnikhonskiy, Leninskiy and some other districts of the republic.

The appeal signed by Rizvon says that the present "pro-communist government" is responsible for all social and economic evils of the Republic as well as impoverishment of its citizens. Therefore, the government should immediately step down.

Leaflets spell out in detail instructions on how to organise resistance to government forces and to give aid to detachments of domestic opposition existing in the Republic.

Competent Tajik bodies confirmed to ITAR-TASS the appearance of anti-government leaflets, calling them a provocation by the extremist wing of opposition, aimed at destabilising the social and political situation and thwarting the second round of the intra-Tajik talks on national reconciliation, which is to be held late in May in a Moslem Mid-East country.

It was stressed that, since leaflets contained a call for an overthrow of the constitutional system in Tajikistan by force, competent bodies instituted a criminal case in connection with this action.

Government Warns About Rebel Buildup Near Afghan Border

LD2704120394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1137 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 27 April TASS—Tajikistan leadership is deeply concerned over the escalation of terroristic actions along the Tajik-Afghan border, the Tajik Foreign Ministry said in a statement circulated on Wednesday.

Tajik Foreign Ministry Spokesman Zafar Saidov told ITAR-TASS that according to "irrefutable evidence" a thousand and a half Tajik rebels are massing in the Afghan border village of Bakhorak. The group is headed by Abdul Rashid Badakhshi, commander of the so-called Badakhshan Resistance Front. The rebels plan to intrude into Tajikistan's inner mountainous regions and launch military actions against the government troops, he said.

Abdul Basir Khalid, commander of Afghanistan 29th Army controlling the region where the rebels are based, is not only tolerant to all their actions but assists rebels, Saidov said.

Tajikistan leadership considers such actions as open hostility against the government and as an attempt to provoke a new armed confrontation in the Republic, and warns that the government will make appropriate moves to prevent provocative actions.

The Tajik Government appeals to all Afghanistan-based rebels to give up irresponsible actions and turn to search

for political decisions whithin the framework of the inter-Tajik negotiating process.

Russian Envoy Arrives, Meets Rakhmonov

LD2704144094 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Emomali Rakhmonov, the head of state and chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan received Aleksandr (Oblov), a roving ambassador of the Russian Federation who arrived today in Dushanbe.

Similarly, Aleksandr (Oblov) is the head of the Russian delegation on the Tajik conflict. The issues related to cooperation between Russia and Tajikistan and the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border were discussed in the course of the meeting.

Emomali Rakhmonov pointed out that the Russian Federation has made a significant contribution to the process of stabilization of the situation in Tajikistan.

Similarly Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov met Aleksandr (Oblov) today.

People Arrested for Handing Out 'Antigovernment' Leaflets

LD2804093494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0650 GMT 28 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 28 Apr— The Tajik Special Services arrested several people in Dushanbe on Wednesday [27 April] for disseminating antigovernment leaflets calling for the armed overthrow of the Republic's present regime. Those arrested were caught red-handed with a stack of proclamations. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this today by the Ministry of Internal Affairs press center, which declined to give more information in view of the interests of the investigation.

Two days ago in Dushanbe and adjacent areas unidentified people distributed proclamations signed by Rizvon Alimardon, one of the leaders of the irreconcileable opposition in exile, who calls himself commander of the Joint Armed Forces of the Islamic Revival Movement of Tajikistan, calling on compatriots to wage a general armed struggle against the "pro-Communist government." According to the authors of the leaflets, the pro-Communist forces are mainly to blame for the civil war that has been unleashed in Tajikistan, and on coming to power they "brought the people to complete destitution." According to the proclamation, the "Red Plague" in Tajikistan should be destroyed.

Turkmenistan

Talks With France's Mitterrand Begin in Ashgabat

LD2704191594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1802 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Late on Wednesday Turkmenian President Saparmurad Niyazov and French President Francois Mitterrand who arrived in the republic on an official visit met in Ashkhabad [Ashgabat]. At the same time, members of the delegations held talks on political, economic, interparliamentary and military cooperation issues.

It is expected that as a result of the talks a full-scale treaty on friendship and cooperation, and a number of documents on encouragement and mutual protection of investments, cooperation between the foreign ministries and in the sphere of languages education will be signed by the two sides.

Talks Focus on C. Asia, Afghanistan

LD2804033294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2219 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Glazovskaya and Mikhail Kalmykov]

[Excerpt] Ashgabat, 28 Apr—Talks between French President Francois Mitterrand, who is in Ashgabat on a state visit, and Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov centered around the situation in Central Asia and the difficult situation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The first round of talks took place late on Wednesday [27 April] evening.

Conducting a policy of positive neutrality and open doors, Turkmenistan is seriously concerned by the security problems close to its borders. As the Turkmen leader noted during the talks, the country's decision to adhere to the Partnership for Peace Program will enable it to pursue more actively ideas of broad international cooperation in its foreign policy. He pointed out that the program could become a real means of guaranteeing not only the security of the peoples of Europe, but of the regions that it borders.

The Turkmen side took pleasure in noting that by displaying its practical aspiration toward organizing a dialogue between East and West, France had of late been paying more attention to the Central Asian region—an explosive region of the world. In the opinion of Turkmen diplomacy, the conflicts in Tajikistan and Afghanistan pose a serious threat to international security.

In turn, Francois Mitterrand welcomed the role being played by independent Turkmenistan in helping to resolve conflicts and overcome crises in the region peacefully. "We wish for a return to civil peace in Afghanistan and want that country to find internal accord once again. The United Nations must be brought more actively into this process to relieve the suffering of

a people that has come into collision with the misfortune of war," the French president said. Recalling the proloned conflict in Afghanistan, he voiced his hope that Ashgabat would continue in the search for a peaceful settlement in that country. [passage omitted]

Uzbekistan

Mitterrand Stresses Resumption of 'Ancient Ties'

BR2604135194 Paris LE FIGARO in French 26 Apr 94 p 6

[Report by special correspondent Paul Guilbert: "Uzbekistan: Francois Mitterrand Meets Six Centuries of History"]

[Excerpts] Tashkent—[passage omitted] In coming here, [French President] Mitterrand thinks it will be easier to straddle almost six centuries of history because, in the meantime, Uzbekistan itself had disappeared from the world political map. "We had not had relations for a long time," he said, "because Uzbekistan was not a sovereign country and the Uzbek people could not express themselves as such." The collapse of the USSR solved that. The French president's visit almost has the character of a historical reparation when Mitterrand states that it makes it possible "to update the very ancient ties between our two countries." At least President Mitterrand is the first Western head of state to visit Tashkent and, at a time when Uzbekistan (a sovereign country for five years and independent for three years) is urgently seeking an identity, this is significant: It is a unique diplomatic exercise which, according to protocol, merely returns the Uzbek president's visit to Paris last October. [passage omitted]

But, on regaining its state, Uzbekistan has certainly not become the home of human rights: Oppositionists are in exile or in prison, and the press only prints the official truth. Moreover, Islam Karimov, who traded his title as first secretary of the Communist Party for that of president of the Republic, displays no democratic aspirations. His favorite word is stability.

This robust Uzbek strode toward Mitterrand, confident of his power. About 10 French entrepreneurs, invited to launch the economic conquest of Uzbekistan, left the president's Concorde. Who knows? Mitterrand is dreaming of the metaphysical aim of his visit: his meditation at the tomb of Tamerlan [14th century amir] tomorrow evening in Samarkand.

Karimov, Mitterrand Discuss Tajikistan, Afghanistan

LD2604142494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0910 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Mikhail Kalmykov and Vilor Niyazmatov]

[Text] Tashkent, 26 Apr—The situation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan was one of the main subjects discussed during talks between President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan and President Francois Mitterrand of France, who is paying a state visit to Tashkent.

The Uzbek leader drew the French side's attention to the need to focus the efforts of the world community on earliest possible settlement of the crisis in this part of Central Asia.

"I believe that the situation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan is turning into one of the main problems affecting world peace," Francois Mitterrand said in his turn. He stressed that the leadership of Uzbekistan has every opportunity to "use its influence on the various sides" involved in the conflict, so that the process "enters the realm of talks."

Mitterrand Voices France's Backing for Uzbek Economy

LD2604162494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0921 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Mikhail Kalmykov and Vilor Niyazmatov]

[Text] Tashkent, 26 Apr—France is prepared to assist Uzbekistan in the modernization of its economy, said French President Francois Mitterrand at talks here with Uzbek President Islam Karimov. They touched upon various aspects of French-Uzbek economic cooperation.

Regarding the two major projects in which French firms are participating—the construction of an oil refinery in Bukhara and the modernization of Uzbek air traffic control systems—Mitterrand expressed France's readiness to guarantee the credits it needs to the sum of 700 million francs.

He stressed that France's participation in the modernization of Uzbekistan's economy does not stop there. Many French enterprises, whose representatives arrived in Uzbekistan together with the official delegation, he said, have been attracted by the possibility of cooperation with their Uzbek counterparts in various sectors of the economy, such as sugar and textile production, gas, the construction of airports, interbank activities, and also in cotton growing and water conservancy.

France will help Uzbekistan to acquire financial assistance from the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, as well as credits for European technical assistance, the French president stressed.

Mitterand Urges International Forum on Bosnia

LD2704084294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0749 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Mikhail Kalmykov and Vilor Niyazmatov]

[Text] Tashkent, 27 April (TASS)—"The ultimatum against Bosnian Serbs is a forced measure authorised by the international community. I shall only welcome if its conditions are observed," French President Francois Mitterrand told a news conference in Tashkent on Tuesday where he is on a state visit.

France prefers a peaceful solution of the problem, the president continued. Therefore, "we support the initiative to call an international conference with the participation of Russia, the United States and the European Union under the U.N. aegis.

"Russia and the U.S. are now discussing this proposal. To all appearances, its convocation can take one month. Therefore, I conveyed my opinion to Presidents Yeltsin and Clinton that such a conference should be called at the earliest. If possible—immediately.

"All initial data for settling the problem are known. They were discussed for many months. It is necessary, at long last, for the great powers, in contact with the warring sides, to find a solution meeting their interests."

Replying to ITAR-TASS, Mitterrand stressed that, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, some concern developed in Europe over a future military and political situation.

"To maintain political stability and security," he said, "we have several mechanisms at our disposal. These are the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the U.S.-brokered 'Partnership for Peace' programme.

"Last but not least, this is an idea put forth by France to call an international conference at which we suggest that a pact on stability in Europe be concluded and that obligations of all countries be defined on preventing and settling conflicts at the earliest possible stage."

Mitterrand also noted that he understands Russia's hesitations concerning its accession to NATO's "Partnership for Peace" programme. "Russia is a great country, and it remains a nuclear power. It led the system opposing NATO.

"Such a confrontation was fraught with war but at the same time, it served as a balance of forces." The president did not want to give advice to Russia how to get out of this situation. "It should make its own choice," he stressed.

Karimov, Mitterrand Express Satisfaction With Talks

LD2704091594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0757 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Mikhail Kalmykov and Vilor Niyazmatov]

[Text] Tashkent, 27 April (TASS)—The presidents of France and Uzbekistan have expressed profound satisfaction with the results of Francois Mitterrand's visit to Uzbekistan and confidence in the bright future of relations between the two states. "The talks and frank conversations we've had," Uzbek President Karimov told a press conference here on Tuesday evening, "has shown that Uzbekistan and France have identical views on pressing international and regional problems. We regard France as a reliable partner, which has huge political weight." The Uzbek president believes that France is setting an example of how to promote equitable and mutually advantageous relations with young sovereign states.

"We had signed fundamental documents half a year ago in Paris and today we are adding concrete substance to them," the French president said. "The French side has already provided financial guarantees to some major joint ventures. Fruitful cooperation between our two countries is perfectly feasible."

The sides have also discussed the situation in Central Asia, including Tajikistan and Afghanistan, various aspects of cooperation in the military-political sphere and in the switchover of defence enterprises to civilian rails, some concrete projects of economic cooperation.

Mitterrand will visit the gem of Uzbekistan—Samarkand—today morning. In the afternoon he will go to Ashkhabad for a two-day state visit. He will hold talks with Turkmenian President Saparmurat Niyazov. The sides are expected to sign a treaty of friendship and cooperation.

Further on News Conference

LD2704140394 Tashkent Radio Tashkent in Russian 0215 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] In the second half of the day, the French president visited the National Park in the capital of the Republic and placed a wreath at the monument of Ali Sheri Navoi, an outstanding poet and statesman. The president of Uzbekistan spoke to the highly esteemed guest on the great respect which the people of Uzbekistan have for the talent of this great poet who has left behind philosophical works and poems. On his side, Francois Mitterrand noted the ever increasing role of Uzbekistan in the world community.

Following this, talks were held between the two presidents on a number of questions of mutual interest. Official talks between the French and Uzbek delegations were also held here with the participation of the heads of state. Joint documents were signed on the results of the talks, including the agreement between the governments of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Republic of France on cooperation between the ministries for internal affairs, a joint declaration on cooperation in the field of air transport, and an agreement between France and Uzbekistan on the freedom of movement of the citizens.

A news conference was held after this by President Francois Mitterrand and President Islam Karimov. Our correspondent Aleksandr [word indistinct] now reports.

[Correspondent] This news conference at which the heads of both states spoke on the major results of the visit attracted unusually large attention from the representatives of the mass media, including correspondents from home and abroad and correspondents as well as from well-known French media. Opening the news conference Uzbek President Islam Karimov:

[Begin Karimov recording, in Russian] We attach great importance to the visit of Francois Mitterrand, president of the Republic of France, to Uzbekistan and consider it an important step for the development of bilateral relations between our countries. The talks held during the visit and the frank talks with the president demonstrated the similarity of positions of Uzbekistan and France on [word indistinct] international and regional problems, once again confirming the sincere efforts of both countries to develop and strengthen mutually advantageous cooperation in all spheres. [end Karimov recording]

This is what French President Francois Mitterrand stated at the news conference when evaluating the talks and the signed agreements.

[Begin Mitterrand recording in French, fading into correspondent's report in Russian] The current meeting, says Mitterrand, is a continuation of our meeting with President Karimov six months ago in France during which the Paris [word indistinct] and the agreement on cooperation between the two countries were signed. We were able to achieve agreements in the political and in the military field. I would like to take (?this opportunity) to thank the president for the warm reception, and would like to state to you that we [word indistinct] Uzbekistan as a country with a rich culture and a great future. It must be noted, said Mitterrand, that relations between our countries are taking on a regular character. This allows us to hope for their dynamic development. Presidents Islam Karimov and Francois Mitterrand answered the many questions of the journalists.

Karimov Comments on CIS, Euro-Asian Union

LD2704092694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0800 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Mikhail Kalmykov and Vilor Niyazmatov]

[Text] Tashkent 27 April TASS—"I have no doubts that we needed the Commonwealth of Independent States. Otherwise we would have had a Yugoslavian version here after the collapse of the Soviet Union. History shows that such apprehensions are grounded," Uzbek President Islam Karimov told a joint press conference here, devoted to the results of French President Francois Mitterrand's state visit to Uzbekistan.

Replying to an ITAR-TASS question, the Uzbek leader noted that he believed the future of the CIS lay in economic integration, including the formation of interstate transcontinental corporations, which could unite Russian and Uzbek enterprises in joint-stock societies.

"We believe that the future of the CIS depends precisely on the formation of such associations, uniting the enterprises of Russia, Uzbekistan, and other republics. It will be even better if such associations are created not on a bilateral, but on a multilateral basis," Karimov stressed.

Asked by ITAR-TASS to comment on the idea of the Euro-Asian union, recently voiced by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Karimov said: "Much is left unsaid when the term Euro-Asian is used. If this implies a single parliament, single suprastate structures and even a single citizenship and a single constitution, it means the restoration of the old union, no matter how it is called. I am vehemently opposed to any comeback of the past. It is not for this that we have achieved sovereignty and are now engaged in national revival. There is no return to the past. History moves only ahead."

"To put it in a nutshell," Karimov stated, "the Euro-Asian idea smacks very much of populism, no matter who voices it."

Export Controls Aimed at Strengthening Currency

PM2504131994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov: "Tighter Currency Control in Uzbekistan"]

[Text] Tashkent—A new statute has come into effect in Uzbekistan controlling foreign economic transactions by individuals and corporate bodies.

This has been done, it is believed here, primarily to strengthen currency circulation in the Republic and increase the purchasing power of sum coupons during the transition to an official national currency. It is laid down that quotas for the export of goods (works, services) cannot be sold, transferred or reallocated to other corporate bodies.

A ban has been imposed on the settlement of accounts for foreign economic transactions by Uzbekistan enterprises, organizations, and institutions with foreign partners, including CIS countries, through firms' accounts in foreign banks. They are only allowed to open currency accounts in authorized Uzbekistan banks if properly registered as participants in foreign economic activity. Each corporate body is entitled to open such an account in only one establishment of an authorized bank; except that, if the bank in question lacks the credit resources, credit can be obtained by agreement with another bank.

All contracts concluded by enterprises with foreign partners, including partners in CIS countries, for the export of licensed goods, works, and services will be subject to registration at the local Foreign Economic Relations Ministry. The statute envisages the obligatory sale of currency earnings (including CIS countries' currencies) to the Republic Central Bank, with the simultaneous payment of the equivalent in sum coupons into the enterprise's clearing account at the current rate.

Armenia

New Azerbaijani Offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh Reported

NC2604154394 Yerevan SNARK in English 1046 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Stepanakert, 26 April (SNARK)—Trying to extend the combat line, the Azerbaijani side undertook an offensive today in the south-eastern direction. As SNARK was told in the press bureau of Karabakh Defense Army, nearly at 0600 26 April, the Azeri troops supported by armoured vehicles attacked the positions of Karabakh forces in the south of Martuninskiy region, as well as in the Fizulinskiy section.

Fighting Intensifies at Front

NC2604192694 Yerevan SNARK in English 1416 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Stepanakert, 26 April (SNARK)—This afternoon the situation became aggravated on north-eastern Mardakertskiy and eastern Agdamskiy direction of Karabakh front.

Press-service of the Karabakh Defence Army's Staff told SNARK that here Azerbaijani troops, supporting by military aircraft and great number of armoured hardware, advanced having the aim to return the recently lost positions. By this evening furious fighting did not cease. According to the same source, Azerbaijani side has lost a tank T-72 and about 40 Azerbaijani soldiers were killed. Karabakh side, which controlled the situation confidently, has one killed and six wounded.

Parliament Deputy Speaks Out Against 'Undeclared War'

NC2604145694 Yerevan SNARK in English 0814 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Yerevan, 26 April (SNARK)—The Armenian parliament deputy, Ashot Bleyan, appeared in the Supreme Council with a statement charging the authorities in conduction of "undeclared war." He claimed that nearly 15 thousand Armenians became the victims of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. " Only during the last three or four months more than one thousand Armenian youths were killed", announced the deputy.

Bleyan's indignant colleagues did not let him finish the appearance, blaming him of lie, so that the speaker had to interrupt the session.

Ashot Bleyan, known for his pacifist position, has abandoned two years ago the ruling party—the Armenian National Movement—and founded a new social-policy organization " New Way", whose non-numerous followers appear for the immediate compromise solution of Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Nearly a year and a half ago, this deputy visited Baku, which caused a non-unanimous reaction in Armenia.

Being a professional teacher, Bleyan is known also as a director of advanced educational center in Yerevan, "Mekhitar Sebastatsi."

Azerbaijani Stance on Russian Plan Scored

944K1115B Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 21 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Ashot Gazazyan: "The President of Azerbaijan Proposes To Immediately Vacate Seven Rayons and One City"]

[Text] Information agencies have brought stunning news: It turns out that Baku does not rule out the possibility of a Russian plan intended to settle the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh and eliminate the consequences having been produced...in Yerevan. This assessment of Russia's new peacemaking initiative confirms the traditionally established idea that Azerbaijan is not even thinking about winding down combat actions and indeed is placing its bets on crude force.

Meanwhile, let us recall that the Russian plan calls for discontinuing combat actions in the conflict zone, vacating Azerbaijani territories, and allowing refugees to return. Moscow proposes to disengage the conflicting parties within three days after a cease-fire and to spend an equal amount of time establishing a buffer zone where international observers are expected to be located. Ultimately the blockade of Armenia would be broken, Karabakh would finally get relatively stable security guarantees, and Azerbaijan would get back its territories seized by the Karabakh Defense Army solely in order to ensure the security of its lines and the civilian population.

However, even this did not satisfy the politicians from Baku. They have now recalled that...Shusha also is among the "occupied" territories—incidentally, it is a city that is an inalienable part of Nagorno-Karabakh. If we adhere to the logic of G. Aliyev, we may also hear very soon that, for example, Mardakert is not mentioned in the Russians' plan.... As far as Lachin is concerned, according to Aliyev, it has also been "completely left out" of the new Russian plan. That is to say, the Lachin humanitarian corridor, Nagorno- Karabakh's only outlet to the outside world, should also be vacated by "Armenian formations." Thereafter, one would expect that Azeri soldiers will only have to conduct the last military operation in order to once again occupy the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, in its turn, and bring the population to its knees. It is hard to say whether these conditions of Baku are a ploy or complete lack of acceptance of existing realities, most likely caused by the quite understandable desire of the Azerbaijani leader to not share the fate of previous presidents of the state.... Be that as it may, Baku's reluctance to accept the world as it now is will not bring either Azerbaijan or the region as a whole more peace.

President Aliyev invited people from Karabakh to visit Baku—this is yet another sensation of recent days. In the process he made it clearly understood that those invited

are citizens of Azerbaijan, and must engage in dialogue with Aliyev in the capital city in a way befitting people speaking with the president. It is hard to understand why the leaders of Karabakh must set out for Baku for anything at all. Clearly they might as well engage in "constructive" dialogue with, for example, the leaders of Kyrgyzstan or Sweden. The list could be continued....

Yet another proposal by Aliyev confirms yet again that there are no political forces in Baku capable of evaluating the real situation in the region soberly; this means that a new escalation of combat actions should be expected, naturally, with all the peacemaking efforts, and not just those of Russia, being completely ignored. It is hard to say how much longer Baku will be able to play a duet alone, thus misleading the world community. One thing is obvious: Whatever the array of forces, Nagorno-Karabakh will never again be a protectorate of Azerbaijan. If a few more weapons emplacements of the aggressor need to be suppressed in order to ensure the security of the people of Karabakh, they have the means to accomplish this and support for these actions from commonly accepted norms of international law. If a weapons emplacement threatens the security of the population, it can be suppressed. This begs the following resume: If mistakes are not perceived today, their number may triple tomorrow. One cannot ride a tank or fly a bomber to peace and welfare in the region. If only all the sides understood this....

Bagratyan Asks CIS States To Form Single-Currency Bank

NC2704173094 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] As has already been reported, the Armenian Government has launched an initiative proposing the introduction of a new single currency within the framework of the economic union of the CIS countries, similar to the EU's ECU [European currency unit].

With this in mind, Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan sent letters to the prime ministers of the CIS countries today, noting that the existence of the decades of unified system over the territory of the former Soviet Union is making the independent economic development of the CIS countries impossible without painful consequences.

The Armenian prime minister reminded his CIS colleagues that since the introduction of the national currencies in these countries, the financial transactions between them has been considerably difficult. The Russian ruble has become the means of payment for any trade transaction with the result that these states are appealing to Russia for additional credits to settle accounts between them. In this way, they are contributing to the Russian budget deficit. In its turn, the devaluation of the Russian ruble is causing even further devaluation of the national currencies.

The Armenian Government sees the mitigation of the financial difficulties in the wider use of the national currencies and therefore proposes the creation of a single CIS currency to settle the mutual accounts through a CIS interstate bank. This will broaden the opportunities of using the national currencies, assist in their stabilization, and establish exchange rates between them as eventually the interstate obligations will be regulated through the national currencies. This will make it possible to spare the CIS countries from accruing debts to Russia, alleviate Russia's credit problems, and contribute to the stabilization of the Russian ruble.

In the opinion of the Armenian Government, the creation of an interstate bank will be beneficial for all the CIS countries. Therefore, Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan has called on all his colleagues to defend the idea of the creation of such a bank.

In his letter, Grant Bagratyan also detailed his views on how to set up the bank and form its initial capital.

Deputies React With 'Resentment' to Colleague's Speech

NC2604145794 Yerevan SNARK in English 0814 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Yerevan, 26 April (SNARK)—Armenian parliamentaries expressed today their resentment with appearance of deputy Ashot Bleyan, who claimed that Armenia conducts "undeclared war" and that nearly 15 thousand Armenians became the victims of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

As told the speaker of the Armenian parliament, Babken Ararktsyan, immediately after Bleyan's appearance numerous calls started to come from Karabakh and Armenian combat divisions in which indignance was expressed with Bleyan's statements. "Such claims affect the national interests of Armenia," observed Ararktsyan.

A deputy from Nagorno-Karabakh, Roles Aghadzhanyan, called Bleyan's statement provocative. He acknowledged that there are volunteers from Armenia fighting in Karabakh. "However there are no Armenian troops in Karabakh," said Aghadzhanyan.

At the same time, the chairman of external relations committee David Vardanyan reminded that Bleyan is free to express his viewpoint. "I do not share his position, however the deputy cannot become a persecution object," he said.

Azerbaijan

CSCE Minsk Group Members Visit Baku

NC2604195294 Baku TURAN in English 1718 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 26) TURAN—This evening the CSCE Minsk Group on Nagorno Karabakh headed by the Swedish diplomat, Mathias Mosberg, will visit Baku for a day.

The delegation consists of 14 people, which includes military experts and diplomats. The delegation will meet with the Azerbaijani leadership and will visit the front line. Earlier when Geydar Aliyev met with the Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, he called upon the CSCE to take an active part in the peace settlement of the Azeri-Armenian conflict.

Meet With President Aliyev

NC2704190394 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Report by unidentified correspondent on President Geydar Aliyev's meeting with the CSCE delegation in Baku on 27 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] In receiving the CSCE Minsk Group delegation, which is working to resolve the Karabakh conflict that has turned our Republic into a battlefield, the Azerbaijani president hoped that these contacts would produce positive results.

Mathias Mosberg, head of the delegation of diplomats and officers from seven countries, noted that during the meeting with the Azerbaijani president a month ago a delegation lead by Mr. Jan Eliasson [chairman of the Minsk Group] received favorable impressions and briefed the Azerbaijani president on their efforts to achieve a political resolution of the conflict. Mr. Mosberg informed him that the Prague conference prepared a number of packages on this matter. He said that two packages could be implemented before the cease-fire and another two after the cease-fire, and that the present delegation intends to discuss this plan with the Azerbaijani president. [passage omitted]

In thanking Aliyev for the frank talk, Mr. Mosberg said that the most important thing to them was to hear the Azerbaijani president's full support for the cease-fire. He said the CSCE Minsk Group will do everything it can on this subject.

Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov and State Minister on Foreign Affairs Vafa Gulizade were also present at the talks.

Meet With Foreign Minister

NC2704182294 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov today received a CSCE delegation lead by Mathias Mosberg. The minister strongly criticized the Minsk Group's policy of equating the aggressor and the victim.

Fierce Fighting Continues in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2604150294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1406 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Report by ARMENPRES correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan, 26 Apr—Fierce fighting has continued today on the Karabakh front. It was reported to an ARMENPRES correspondent at the headquarters of the Army of the Nagorno-Karabakh defense force that Azerbaijani subunits have been attacking in the Martuni and Fizuli directions since the morning. However, it notes in the report, the fierce fighting backed up by tanks did not bring the attackers success. Just as before, the Karabakh fighters are in control of their positions and are rebuffing the enemy onslaught.

The situation in the northeast of the confrontation sector, where some of Azerbaijan's firing positions were neutralized yesterday, was calm.

Armenian Troops Reportedly Continue Attacks

NC2604161794 Baku AZERTAC in English 1414 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Baku, 26 April (AZERTAC)—The Armenian Armed Forces do not renounce their attempts to continue attack on Agdamskiy, Terterskiy and Geranboyskiy [Rayons]. According to the Azerbaijani Defence Ministry, the Armenians have failed to break through the Azerbaijani defences in Terterskiy and are shelling settlement of the district.

The Defence Ministry has informed that, since yesterday, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces have repulsed five attacks of the Armenian Army. Failed in their last attempt to attack the Azerbaijani defences, the Armenians opened fire on their soldiers, who tried to flee the battlefield. 25 Armenian soldiers were killed by Armenians. However such an extreme measure has not helped to avoid the flight of its soldiers from the battlefield and to continue the offensive.

Fighting Continues in Terterskiy, Other Regions

NC2604194494 Baku TURAN in English 1718 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 26) TURAN—"Armenian armed forces continue their offensive" says the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan.

More fierce fighting is taking place in the Terterskiy-Agdamskiy and Geranboy [Shaumyanovskiy] directions. In the Terterskiy region, the Armenian units' latest attempt to break through the Azeri front line failed. Since yesterday, regular artillery shelling has been continuous in the Terterskiy region, primarily where civilians live.

Beginning yesterday, the Armenian armed forces launched five unsuccessful attacks in the direction of Tapgaragoyunlu village in the Geranboy region. All attacks were repelled.

After the repelling of the last attack by the Armenian Army, Armenian soldiers began to kill their own soldiers who tried to save flee the zone. This resulted in the killing of 25 Armenian soldiers.

According to the Defence Ministry of Azerbaijan these shooting from within Armenian positions was heard all through the night.

The same source notes that all residents of the Geranboy and Terterskiy regions who were able to carry a gun defended their country.

According to the latest information from Geranboy, the Azeri advancement detachments, having fought off the Armenian attacks, have reached the Talish district. At present fierce fighting continues in that region.

Troops Said To Repel Fresh Attacks

LD2704114994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1106 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Report by AZERTAC correspondent Gekchekkhanum Tagiyeva]

[Text] Baku, 27 Apr—The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reported today that the Armenian Armed Forces staged new attempts to mount an offensive in the Geranboy and Terter sectors. According to AZERTAC NEWS AGENCY, Azerbaijani Army subunits managed to ward off all the enemy attacks and to prevent any further Armenian advance into these parts of Azerbaijan.

The Defense Ministry also reported an attempt by the Armenian Armed Forces to stage an attack in the Agdam sector, near the village of Bash Karvend. Fierce fighting is raging there right now.

Russia's Kozyrev on Stationing Russian Troops in Area

NC2604193694 Baku TURAN in English 1718 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 26) TURAN—Yesterday the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan, Rasul Guliyev, met with Russian Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev.

During the meeting they discussed issues of mutual interest.

Rasul Guliyev mentioned that the primary preconditions for the development of Russian-Azerbaijani relations must be a cease-fire on the territory of Azerbaijan.

He said that the war has taken thousands of lives of both parties. That is why Russia must use its influence to settle the issue.

Andrey Kozyrev called the conflict "a common pain" and said that they will use all possible means to settle the conflict.

The Russian Foreign Minister assessed the settlement plan as a realistic document which is of mutual interest.

As far as the stationing of peacemaking forces of the CIS in the zone of the conflict is concerned, Kozyrev said that "it does not mean a constant presence of Russian troops in the region."

Rasul Guliyev's visit will end on 29 April. He is due to meet with the Chairman of Federal Session Meeting and the Russian Duma, the Russian Foreign Minister and Armenia's representatives.

Government Accepts Grachev Cease-Fire Plan

LD2704131594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1059 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] The Karabakh Defense Army's headquarters stated that Baku had accepted the plan for attaining cease-fire in the zone of the Karabakh conflict, proposed by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, because the Azerbaijani units were in disarray all along the front, informed sources in Stepanakert told INTERFAX.

The headquarters believe that Azerbaijan will make use of the cease-fire agreement for replenishing its forces and launching a new large-scale offensive. However, the final say on the truce is to be said by the Karabakh political leaders, whose official position is to be announced within the next few hours.

Grachev's cease-fire plan, proposed during the talks in Moscow with Azerbaijani parliament speaker Rasul Guliyev, was supported by Azerbaijan.

On the same day, Grachev got in touch with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian and, to quote the Armenian president's aid Levon Zurabian, asked him to influence Karabakh.

Zurabian said that Armenia could not accept or reject the reached agreement, because the conflict had to do with Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh, and that Armenia could only use its influence. "The final decision must be taken by Nagorny Karabakh," he said.

Parliament, Government Reportedly Cool to Plan

MK2604113094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 1

[Aydyn Mekhtiyev report under the "Diplomacy" rubric: "Russian Peacekeeping Is Not for Baku. Ankara Is Still Against Equal Responsibility Principle"]

[Excerpt] Parliamentary hearings held in Baku 22 April were devoted to a discussion of a new variant of the Russian plan for a peaceful settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Although no final decision on the question being discussed was made, the view of the majority of parliamentarians was one: the document presented by Russia does not defend the sovereign rights of Azerbaijan while, as one of the speakers stated, "it actually reserves for the Armenian side the right to continue the occupation of more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory." It is well known that should the

Russian plan be approved, the Azeri Army would have to retreat 10 to 20 km from currently held positions, which would then mean leaving 35 percent of the country's territory out of the Azeri Government's control. Naturally, Baku officials affirm the unacceptability of such an approach to resolving the conflict. President Geydar Aliyev thinks that so far Moscow is not holding a sufficiently principled posture in the matter of settling the problem. He made such a remark while meeting in Baku on 23 April with Sergey Baburin, coordinator of the "Russian Path" deputy group, who arrived there in the capacity of Russian Federation State Duma delegation head.

The unanimity with which the parliamentarians and the republic's government reject the Russian peace plan in its present variant is primarily attributed to fears about introducing Russian troops to Azerbaijan territory. The men in Baku think that the very presence of Russian troops in the region of conflict would hardly secure a stable cease-fire. The republic's diplomatic circles believe that the persistence with which Moscow proposes that the peace plan be approved is dictated first and foremost by the desire to take over complete control of the Azerbaijan-Turkey border, restoring thereby its military control over this Transcaucasus republic. Naturally, not only Azerbaijan but also neighboring Iran and Turkey do not conceal their worry over this kind of preparations by Moscow. [passage omitted]

Turkey's Cetin Comments on Karabakh Conflict

NC2604143294 Baku TURAN in English 0952 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 25) TURAN—"Model of peace restoration at the Balkans must be used in Karabakh as well", said Turkish Foreign Minister, Hikmet Cetin, at yesterday's Baku briefing.

"Turkey will exert economic, political and diplomatic pressure on Armenia and even will put on embargo until the latter withdrawn its troops from Azeri territories", said Foreign Minister of Turkey.

Cetin said that the main condition of the conduction of the Minsk conference is liberation of occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Turkish Foreign Minister said that Russia must not settle the conflict alone. "Peacemaking forces must be international, according to the resolution of the CSCE", said Cetin.

Last Sunday Foreign Minister Cetin was on a one-day working visit to Baku.

He met with the Chairman of the Parliament, Rasul Guliyev and the Foreign Minister, Gasan Gasanov, later he was received by President Aliyev.

Azerbaijan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Cetin arrived in Baku to realize agreements and protocols signed during President Aliyev's visit to Turkey.

As was known, Cetin held consultations concerning the matter of Azerbaijan's entrance the NATO programme "Partnership in the Sake of Peace".

Speaking with Azeri President Turkish Foreign Minister Cetin mentioned that Turkey intends to strengthen many-sided cooperation with Azerbaijan.

President Aliyev said that the UNO and the CSCE are very passive and the resolutions adopted by them have no effect.

President Aliyev mentioned that after the failure of the tripartite initiative of the USA, Russia and Turkey, Russia announced about its intention to be the only mediator in the settlement of the conflict.

"But we did not accept Russian settlement plan since it did not suit Azerbaijan's interests", said Aliyev. After that the Armenian troops resumed the attack. Armenia says if Azerbaijan does not accept Russian settlement plan, we will seize Ganja.

Geydar Aliyev mentioned that "Armenian tries to force us to take humiliating peace. It has several forces supplying it with guns and ammunitions".

According to President Aliyev, the CSCE and the UN must activize peacemaking activity to settle the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict honestly.

"We are ready to peaceful resolutions, but the conditions of the truce must be just", said President Aliyev.

President Approves Privatization Program

NC2704213494 Baku TURAN in English 1636 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 27) TURAN—Yesterday President Aliyev signed the programme of privatization for 1994, which further was sent to the discussion of the Parliament.

The draft of the programme was prepared by the Committee for Property.

"The programme stipulates that approximately 8,000 objects of trade, public utilities, enterprises and non-completed constructions will be privatized," specialist of the State Committee for Property, Mamedrasul Bilalov, told TURAN's correspondent.

During privatisation the preference will be given to employees of this or that enterprise. Only if the employees refuse to purchase their enterprise, the latter can be sold through the auctions.

"Each Azeri citizen irrespective of age will have special account in bank totalling 5,000 manats. These means can be used only during privatisation and for purchasing of shares. Index system will be used to protect these means from inflation," said Bagirov.

Georgia

New Defense Minister Comments on Appointment

LD2604164494 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Video report by unidentified correspondent, including recorded comments by Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze, the new Georgian defense minister]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] At today's Georgian Supreme Council session, deputies were to complete selection of the Cabinet of Ministers. The morning session was entirely taken up with discussions of the appointment of the defense minister. The head of state proposed a serviceman in the Russian Army, Lieutenant General Vardiko Mikhailovich Nadibaidze, deputy commander of the Transcaucasian Group of Russian Forces, for the post. [passage omitted]

The new minister hopes to attract his former fellow-servicemen from the Russian Army.

[Nadibaidze] Anybody capable of helping and who will help will be next to me. To help set up an army, and to help our people.

[Correspondent] On mutual relations with the Russian Armed Forces, the minister said:

[Nadibaidze] The majority understand the situation in Georgia, and will help us. I am convinced they will help. And so our relations will be normal.

Abkhazia Says Armed Attacks on Increase

LD2604131194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1239 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchogoleva]

[Text] Sochi April 26 TASS—"Armed sorties and subversive acts, staged by Georgian armed units, are becoming most frequent in the Galiy District of Abkhazia," says a statement of the Abkhazian Defence Ministry, released today by the republic's Ministry for Information and the Press.

The statement recalls that Georgian armed units had crossed the Inguri River on the left-hand flank of the confrontation line in the afternoon of April 24. Three Georgians were killed during the ensuing battle. "The Abkhazian Defence Ministry assesses these actions as yet another attempt to torpedo the talks on the peaceful settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict," the statement says.

Official Says UN Troop Deployment Key to Peace

NC2704130394 Yerevan SNARK in English 0655 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, 27 April (SNARK)—The entrance of the UN peacekeeping forces is the key-item in the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. It is impossible to put an end to the conflict without it. This declaration was made by the personal representative of the Georgian head Sandro Kavsadze in an exclusive interview to SNARK.

In his opinion, dislocation of peacekeeping forces all over the territory of Abkhazia meets the interests of both conflicting sides, for it will guarantee the coming back of Georgian refugees, as well as protect Abkhazia from the possible Georgian attacks.

Warns UN Troop Deployment Necessary

NC2704133594 Yerevan SNARK in English 0752 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 April (SNARK)—If till 10 May the UNO [United Nations Organization] does not pass a resolution on bringing the international peacekeeping forces into the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict zone, Georgia will resort to other mechanisms of settlement of the problem. This declaration was made today by the new chairman of Georgian Committee on human rights defence and ethnic relations Sandro Kavsadze in an interview to SNARK.

In his words, such mechanism could be the CIS collective security forces. "We cannot wait. Otherwise, the situation in Abkhazia may become ungovernable, and the conflict will acquire a large-scale character," stressed Kavsadze.

Besides, he noted that official Tbilisi raises the question of expanding the mandate of the UN observers dislocated in the conflict zone, and increasing their number.

Parliament Adopts Law on Weapons

LD2704145894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1337 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 27 April (TASS)—The Georgian parliament has adopted a law on weapons, which will come into force on 15 May. The authors of this legislation—members of the Georgian parliament's legal commission—today commented on this document during a press conference in Tbilisi. Journalists were told that the adoption of the new law was dictated by two factors. Firstly, the Georgian law enforcement bodies are now unable to ensure the protection and safety of every citizen and his home. Secondly, the republic is, literally speaking, flooded with weapons, and the new law will allow the authorities to control them to some extent and to regulate the production, sale, and storage of pistols and revolvers.

Georgia will apparently draw on Russia's weapon-making potential, primarily on the Tula and Izhevsk plants, famous for their top-quality pistols and revolvers.

At the same time, the law allows the Georgian Government to issue licences to legal persons not only to purchase and sale wholesale consignments of short-barrel weapons, but also to manufacture them.

All the citizens of Georgia, upon reaching the age of 18, will be entitled to purchase and possess weapons if they are able-bodied, sane, not addicted to drugs or alcohol, and "socially reliable," i.e. normally disposed towards neighbours and the society as a whole.

However, the law regulates the calibre and barrel length of the weapons, as well as their other tactical-technical characteristics. The organisers of the press conference assured the journalists that all the necessary regulatory enactments would be ready before 15 May, which is rather dubious, of course.

Supreme Council Adopts Cabinet Proposed by Shevardnadze

LD2704181294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 27 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] In the evening of 26 April Georgian parliament concluded confirmation of the composition of the Cabinet of Ministers. Despite the rejection of the parliamentary opposition to participate in the confirmation procedure which is lasting for a month already the list of candidates proposed by Georgia's leader Eduard Shevardnadze was adopted without any changes.

Almost all of the confirmed members of the Cabinet headed by Premier Otar Patsatsiya have already worked in the government with the exception of Vice Premier on economic reform Teimuraz Basiliya and Defense Minister Lieutenant General Varden Nadibaidze.

The new head of the military department and former deputy commander of the Group of the Russian forces in Transcaucases reported to INTERFAX that the proposal to become a defense minister "was slightly unexpected for him." "However, I have accepted it and, of course, at the first stage of my work on this post I shall get acquainted with the people and with the situation in the Georgian Army," he said.

Speaking about the Georgian Army, Nadibaidze declared that "the Army should be disciplined, mobile, and combat efficient." "In order to create such an army we need assistance of the state, I think that we shall receive this aid," he said.

When asked about his position with respect to the settlement of the Abkhazian conflict, Nadibaidze said that "the negotiations on this issue are underway but they would not determine everything."

On Wednesday in Tbilisi, Shevardnadze presented Nadibaidze to the staff of the Defense Ministry. The press center of the ministry reported to Interfax that addressing the ministry's board, Shevardnadze expressed hope that this appointment would assist in a faster making of the Georgian Army and increase its combat efficiency.

Estonia

Laar Says Resignation Rumors Premature

WS2604193694 Tallinn BNS in English 1713 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 26, BNS—Prime Minister Mart Laar today told reporters that recent speculations in the press about his forthcoming resignation are premature and groundless.

"I don't think it likely that I'll step down from the post of prime minister, despite claims to the contrary in the press," Laar stated.

Several Estonian politicians maintain that, since the last vote of no confidence three months ago, the correlation of forces in the parliament has changed and the parliament may force Laar to resign.

"When President Lennart Meri congratulated me on my birthday (April 22; Laar was on a visit to the United States last week), he said there have been writings about my resignation in the Estonian press he can't understand," Laar said. "Perhaps reporters have more information than I myself do."

The premier also voiced the opinion that the press have reached a stage when they've "run out of subjects to write about and therefore engage in speculation."

"I know that Tiit Vahi (chairman of the Tallinn City Council and the Assembly Party, as well as former prime minister) hankers after the post of premier, he has openly admitted it," Laar noted. "It's another thing how many members of the parliament want to see him fill that post."

The prime minister also said rumors about rifts in the government are "exaggerated."

"The coalition is doing good teamwork and even defections are not likely to rock the boat," Laar declared.

Deputy 'Surprised' by Rumors of Candidacy

WS2604122894 Tallinn ETA in English 0826 GMT 26 Apr 94

[From April 26 POSTIMEES, pp 1, 3 ; "News Bulletin" No. 79/94]

[Text] One of possible candidates for prime minister as mentioned in the discussions of Riigikogu [parliament] factions with President Lennart Meri, MP Uno Mereste, claimed to be surprised at being mentioned in that context.

Presidential advisor Rain Rosimannus admitted on Friday that Tiit Vuhi and Uno Mereste had been mentioned as possible candidates for the post. Mereste commented to the POSTIMEES that no one had discussed the matter with him, although he had heard some vague rumours. He added that he is not among the most active critics of Mart Laar's government.

Commission To Supervise Removal of Nuclear Fuel

LD2604165194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] The government formed a high-level commission today to monitor and regulate the removal of Russian nuclear reactors from the Paldiski naval base near Tallinn. The commission will be led by Energy Minister Arvo Niitenberg. Other members include Foreign Minister Juri Luik, Interior Minister Heiki Arike, and Environment Minister Andres Tarand. Premier Mart Laar said that the ministers appointed as members will also be able appropriate representatives and specialists from any relevant department as needed.

(?Estonia) has stated repeatedly that it is ready for the nuclear fuel removal and the dismantlement of the nuclear reactors. Estonia will impose a special regime on Pakri peninsula for the time of the nuclear fuel removal, as the Estonian side must ensure safety of this procedure. According to preliminary information the removal of nuclear fuel will begin in early May.

Former Soviet Arms Plants To Be Privatized

WS2704193794 Tallinn BNS in English 1759 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 27, BNS—Dvigatel and Baltiyets, two former Soviet armaments factories, are to be entered on the list of Estonian enterprises that will be privatized with the help of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development [EBRD], Vaino Sarnet, the director of the Estonian Privatization Agency, told reporters today.

Sarnet hoped the factories would finally be sold with help from Europe, but he couldn't say what they would be producing in the future.

The Privatization Agency director said EBRD plans to help Estonia sell several enterprises into private hands. "The bank will restructure the enterprises that are to be privatized, change their management and find investors," Sarnet said. "The enterprises will then be privatized in the usual way."

The head of the Privatization Agency did not rule out that EBRD may take part in the Estonian privatization process also financially. He said the bank may either buy part of the shares in the companies that are to be sold into private hands to whet investors' appetite, or it may even extend credit to them.

Sarnet said EBRD has already earmarked a little over one million ECU for privatization consultations, as well as 10 million ECU for buying shares or giving loans to privatized enterprises. He expressed hope that the bank will increase those sums.

Majority of Aliens To Get Residence Permits

WS2704153494 Tallinn BNS in English 1329 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 27, BNS—Aliens who were permanent residents of Estonia as of July 1, 1990, will be granted permanent residence permits, Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar said yesterday in Tallinn at a meeting with Russian journalists.

"Under the aliens law, those people are entitled to a permanent residence permit and nobody is going to deprive them of this right," Laar said.

Issuance of temporary three-year permits to that category of people stems from the need to observe international legal norms, Laar claimed.

"International legislation stipulates that a resident must have a temporary residence permit before he can be issued a permanent permit," the government head underscored.

Since this regulation "gives rise to concern" among aliens living in Estonia, the Cabinet plans to take some steps to alleviate it.

"To calm down the people, the government will allow those people to apply for the permanent residence permit immediately upon receipt of the temporary permit," Laar said.

The premier underlined that temporary residence permits grant aliens the same rights in privatization and the social sphere as Estonian citizens have.

"If somebody feels he is being discriminated against, he may fearlessly turn to the court," Laar said.

The Estonian premier emphasized in conversation with Russian reporters that Russia knows too little about developments in Estonia.

"Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev is lying when he says that Estonia is deporting Russians or that Estonia grants its citizenship on ethnic principles," Laar said. "Let Kozyrev come here and see for himself that he has more cause for anxiety about the situation of Russians in Central Asia."

The premier claimed the situation in Estonia is being aggravated by the some Russian citizens residing in that Baltic country.

"Being citizens of a foreign country resident in Estonia, they trumpet forth all over the world blatant lies, for example, about concentration camps for Russians being built here.

"Such people may become unwelcome in Estonia," the premier emphasized.

Latvia

Latvian, Russian Experts Discuss Troop Withdrawal

LD2604120294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0651 GMT 26 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Kuchina]

[Text] Jurmala, 26 Apr—Groups of experts from the two countries' delegations started work in Jurmala today within the framework of the preparations for the meeting of the presidents of Latvia and Russia. Sergey Zotov, head of the Russian delegation, noted that amendments cannot be made to the already initialled package of agreements, which consists of four documents. However, the interests of the Latvian side will possibly be taken into account during discussion of the mechanism for implementing individual points.

Reaffirming Russia's willingness to withdraw its troops from Latvia by 31 August, Zotov stressed that only the signing of the entire package of documents relating to the withdrawal of the army units would be acceptable to Russia.

In his turn Guntis Ulmanis, as was reported at his office, is insisting on the introduction of substantial corrections into the agreement on social protection for military pensioners resident in Latvia. Today representatives of the foreign policy departments of the two countries will set the date in Moscow for the meeting with President Yeltsin.

Prime Minister Returns From Talks in Germany

WS2704080194 Tallinn BNS in English 1857 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 26, BNS—Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs returned Tuesday [26 April] from the Dusseldorf Dialogues forum, in which he delivered a report on the theme "From singing revolution to market economy and democracy."

The forum was attended by the leading entrepreneurs and politicians of the North Rhine-Westphalia Land, chiefly persons, linked with Latvia by present and future business interests.

The participants of the forum reached a series of principal agreements on technological cooperation to develop small and medium size businesses, Birkavs briefed reporters at the Riga airport.

The North-Rhine Westphalia's entrepreneurs already implement around 30 joint projects with Latvians.

Birkavs received formal support for the setup of a foundation to repatriate Russian retired servicemen and rehabilitate the environment of Skrunda, the site of the renowned Russian radar facility in Latvia.

However, "there is no real money yet" because Germany favors a temporizing policy regarding Latvian-Russian relations, Birkavs said.

Birkavs achieved the extension of German government sponsorship of the Latvians high school at Munster for one more year. Germany planned earlier to suspend the subsidies.

During this one year, Latvia will draft a project on how to convert the Munster school into its own education, culture and science center in Germany.

Lithuania

Further Reportage on Polish President's Visit

LD2604125494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Polish President Lech Walesa arrived in Vilnius Tuesday for a two-day official visit.

Following the welcoming ceremony at the airport, Walesa and his entourage went to the Antakalnis city cemetery where they paid tribute to the memory of those killed for the freedom and independence of Lithuania. Then the Polish president met Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas.

A treaty "On Friendly Relations and Neighborly Cooperation Between Lithuania and Poland" is expected to be signed on Tuesday. Its draft was prepared for several years.

The differences in views on the historic developments taking place 70 years ago were the main obstacle in preparing the treaty. The Lithuanian side wanted that the period from 1920 to 1939, when Vilnius and its suburbs were part of Poland, be described in the treaty as "occupation". The Polish side disagreed with the wording.

The speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament told Interfax before the visit that the arrival of Walesa and the signing of the Lithuanian-Polish treaty should put an end to the past relations and become the basis for the development of good relations in the future. He said that the visit by the Polish leader would help an early integration of Lithuania into the European structures, the development of a mutually advantageous cooperation between the two states.

According to the Lithuanian statistics, in 1993 Lithuania exported to Poland goods to the sum of about $33.6 million which is 2.8 pct of total export. The country imported goods from Poland to the tune of about $9.1 dollars (about 0.7 pct of total imports).

Walesa, Brazauskas Sign Friendship Treaty

LD2604114694 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1005 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] In Vilnius an hour ago the presidents of Poland and Lithuania, Lech Walesa and Algirdas Brazauskas, signed a treaty on cooperation and good-neighborly relations.

[Unidentified correspondent] This is a breakthrough in our bilateral relations because, out of seven our neighbors, Lithuania was the only one with which we did not have a bilateral treaty. The treaty was prepared not without difficulties, with accompanying protests from extreme nationalists on both sides. The Lithuanian side wanted to condemn in the treaty the occupation of Vilnius region in the period 1920-39 and regard as illegal all the effects of the presence of the Polish state in that region.

This was not acceptable to us, among other things because of the Poles living in Lithuania. Apart from that, it would be difficult to find a country which would condemn its own history in a treaty. Finally, both sides agreed that historical entries should be included in a separate declaration which would not have the force of an international agreement.

As a result, we are talking about the bad experiences of the past. Instead of a condemnation of the occupation there is a statement that Warsaw is the capital of Poland and Vilnius is the capital of Lithuania. This confirms Lithuania's historical rights to Vilnius. Neither Poland nor Lithuania have any territorial claims on each other. Both countries consider the present border as inviolable.

Treaty With Poland Detailed

WS2704080094 Tallinn BNS in English 1857 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 26, BNS—The Lithuanian-Polish agreement on friendly relations and good neighborly cooperation that was signed in Vilnius Tuesday [26 April] will have to be ratified by the legislations of the two nations and will come into effect when countries exchange ratification documents.

The treaty will be registered at the Secretariat of the United Nations in accordance with Article 102 of the U.N. Charter.

The accord will be effective for 15 years and will then be automatically extended every 5 years if not canceled by one of the sides.

The agreement says Lithuania and Poland regret the conflicts that occurred between them after World War I when Lithuanians and Poles started their new independent existence. The two nations condemn the use of force in their previous relations.

According to the treaty, both countries recognize each other's territorial integrity with their capitals Vilnius and Warsaw, irrespective of all border forming processes of the past.

Lithuania and Poland recognize the currently existing border between them and pledge to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The two countries confirm that they have no territorial claims to each other and will not make any such claims in the future.

According to the agreement, the two nations will cooperate in order to preserve and enhance security in Europe, will seek to enhance security and trust in Europe and will pay special attention to security and trust in the Baltic Sea region. Lithuania and Poland intend to sign separate agreements on bilateral military relations.

The treaty says that in case one of the states is invaded by a third country, Lithuania and Poland will not help the invading country during the conflict.

The two countries intend to expand contacts between their state institutions and to create favorable conditions for parliamentary cooperation. According to the agreement, Lithuanian and Polish presidents and prime ministers will meet at least once a year. Foreign ministers will maintain regular contacts.

The accord provides for the creation of a joint commission to deal with border cooperation problems and to sign a respective agreement. Lithuania and Poland intend to increase the number of border crossings and to modernize the already existing ones. The two countries will seek to improve and to speed up customs and border procedures, as well as to develop cooperation between respective government agencies.

The two countries agree to base themselves on international principles and standards in defending the rights of national minorities.

According to the agreement, Lithuanian and Polish minorities in the two countries have the right to freely use their native languages in personal and social life; to use, distribute and exchange information in their native language and to have their own media sources; to use their language for studies; to create their own institutions, organizations or societies, especially cultural, religious and educational, as well as all types of schools.

National minorities would also be allowed to use their names and surnames the way they are pronounced in their native language. According to the agreement, spelling rules for surnames will be set by a separate agreement.

The two countries will preserve the national, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of national minorities on their territory.

The sides also pledge to determine the use of national minority languages in state institutions, especially in areas where a national minority makes up a greater part of the population.

Walesa Says Treaty Ends Past

LD2704122594 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1005 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] [Announcer] President Lech Walesa has said in Vilnius that the Polish-Lithuanian Treaty has put an end to the past.

[Correspondent Prygon] Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas had a similar view and expressed the hope that the treaty will prove to be sufficiently substantial to be beneficial to both our states and nations. Thus, the principle that in Polish-Lithuanian relations we should look into the future rather than the past has been reiterated. Poland and Lithuania are linked by similar interests in the economy and foreign policy. For this reason, and despite the fact that Lech Walesa is still skeptical about the Partnership for Peace program, he thinks that we should, I quote, turn this partnership into a great factor for security for Europe. He added that there is no free Poland without a free Lithuania.

Lech Walesa supports the idea put forward by Algirdas Brazauskas yesterday for a meeting between the heads of the Baltic states and the heads of the Visegrad Group.

Asked about the rebroadcasting of the Polish Television First Program to Lithuania, Lech Walesa said he will do everything he can to ensure that as many programs as possible reach Lithuania. He admitted, however, that there are technical difficulties. It is possible to overcome them, in the same way as we can overcome the situation at our border-crossing points. At the same time, he expressed the hope that by the year 2000 we will not be divided by a border.

Landsbergis Sees Too Many Concessions

WS2704181194 Tallinn BNS in English 1613 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 27, BNS—"Too much concessions were made to Poland" in the Lithuanian-Polish friendship and cooperation agreement, says Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the rightist opposition in the Lithuanian parliament.

The accord was signed in Vilnius Tuesday [26 April] by Polish President Lech Walesa and Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas.

In an interview with the LIETUVOS RYTAS newspaper, Landsbergis noted, however, that the signing was an important step in relations between the two countries. The opposition leader said the shortcomings in the treaty were partly compensated by Brazauskas' speech in the parliament after the signing ceremony. "The president

spoke about important things, which should be understood as unwritten contents of the treaty," Landsbergis said.

The Lithuanian opposition earlier sharply criticized the agreement and the Lithuanian Government for dropping a demand that the annexation of Vilnius and its region by Poland in 1920 be mentioned in the treaty.

Brazauskas, Walesa Address Parliament

WS2604175894 Tallinn BNS in English 1339 GMT 26 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 26, BNS—History should be left to historians, and more attention should be paid to regional cooperation and human rights, Polish President Lech Walesa said addressing the Lithuanian parliament Tuesday [26 April].

Walesa and Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas made speeches in the parliament after they signed an agreement on friendship and cooperation.

Walesa said Lithuania and Poland have a common history, which must be studied well in order to avoid mistakes in the future.

The Polish president said the two countries must not passively observe the changes in Europe and around the world, but should actively participate in the stabilization process that goes on in Eastern and Central Europe.

Walesa said relations within the Visegrad group (Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic) and cooperation between the three Baltic states serve as examples for developing stronger regional cooperation.

He said Poland, as a Visegrad country and Lithuania's neighbor, seeks to develop cooperation in the entire region, including Germany, Russia and Scandinavian countries.

Walesa noted that membership in the European Union is a common goal of both Lithuania and Poland. He said "Poland is a natural ally of the Baltic states" on the road to a unified Europe.

"An expanded NATO bloc should be a guarantee of stability in this part of Europe," the Polish president said, and added that Poland and Lithuania are concerned about the extreme militarization of the Kaliningrad region.

Walesa called the signed Lithuanian-Polish accord an achievement of democracy, and noted that democracy means equal rights to all, including national minorities. He expressed hope that the Lithuanian parliament will manage to guarantee equal rights to Lithuania's Poles. In Walesa's words, Poland is pleased with the activities of its Lithuanian minority, especially the self- government and agricultural achievements in the predominantly Lithuanian-populated Punsk region.

In conclusion, Walesa said he is certain that an agreement between the Polish Eagle and the Lithuanian Vytis (the state emblems) will become "a foundation of a home for Poles and Lithuanians."

Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas, who spoke after Walesa, proposed to hold a summit of Visegrad and Baltic leaders.

Brazauskas said Poland and Lithuania, which are the biggest Visegrad and Baltic states, could stimulate a dialog between the two regions on all levels. A free trade agreement between the Baltics and Visegrad countries would be a step in this direction, he said. "I think Vilnius and Warsaw could join efforts to arrange a meeting between Visegrad and Baltic leaders this or early next year."

During a summit in March, the presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania said their countries will seek to expand cooperation on the North-Baltic-Visegrad axis.

Discussing pan-European political processes, Brazauskas pointed out certain aspects of relations with Russia. He said Poland and Lithuania, which have borders with the Kaliningrad region, are especially interested in a successful development of democratic reforms both in the region and in Russia in general. "The Russian Federation could essentially contribute to security and stability in the area by gradually transforming the region from a military stronghold into a zone of active international business."

Brazauskas expressed regret that a free trade agreement between Lithuania and Russia is blocked and that "a commercial-economic agreement does not come into force because of Russia's positions. Such a policy is neither positive nor having prospects, and it does not stimulate stability in Europe."

Commenting on the Lithuanian-Polish friendship and cooperation agreement, Brazauskas said "Lithuania achieved its most important goals but did not violate any of its essential and vital interests. A clever compromise was reached."

Brazauskas noted, however, that "Lithuania does not give up its principled position that Vilnius and the Vilnius region were a part of Poland before the war only by fact, but not lawfully."

Brazauskas, Walesa Hold News Conference

LD2704120294 Warsaw PAP in English 1026 GMT 27 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, April 27—"The worst in the relations between Poland and Lithuania has been left behind. We now should show more optimism because everything that is ahead of us will certainly be better and nicer", President Lech Walesa said in Vilnius on Wednesday.

Appearing during a joint press conference the presidents of Poland, Lech Walesa, and of Lithuania, Algirdas

Brazauskas stressed that the Polish-Lithuanian treaty has created foundations for further cooperation and it will depend on societies of the two countries how these opportunities will be utilized.

"It seems that the treaty has in a way closed the past. Now we are facing the tasks of construction, of the future. Poland is prepared for this," President Walesa said.

Replying to a question asked by one of the journalists concerning the consequences of Lithuania's stand claiming that Vilnius and the Vilnius region had illegally belonged to Poland in the period between the two world wars, President Brazauskas stated:

"It is difficult to speak of any consequences after fifty years. All the inhabitants of that area are Lithuanian citizens and all have to respect the same laws."

Walesa confirmed that he is sceptical about the "Partnership for Peace" programme and the plan is unsettled and dependent on how much will be jointly done. "Poland will encourage other countries, including Lithuania, to turn "Partnership for Peace" into joint, big and important security for whole Europe" Walesa said adding that there is no free Poland without free Lithuania.

Asked to comment on the Lithuanian president-voiced proposal for a joint meeting of the Baltic states and Visegrad Group leaders, Walesa said he is ready for such a meeting. "If nations expect us to meet, then the meeting would be advisable. If this is Lithuania's wish, I will prompt it to Visegrad Group."

The presidents agreed that the issues of Kaliningrad district and transit through Poland or Lithuania have to be settled. The Polish president emphasized that Poland and Lithuania will seek the transit provided that it is economic, profitable and controlled."

"Geographically, from the economic and not military point of view Kaliningrad is a very good location. We have not heard that Poland or Lithuania are willing to invade Russia. From what we hear, but in a little bit silent way, Russia is not going to invade Poland or Lithuania, either. One has to turn the tanks and other hardware into ploughshares. Then transit will be profitable for all," Walesa said.

Brazauskas told newsmen that Russia should not complain about transit through his country as it is conducted in compliance with international standards.

Walesa Meets With Lithuanian Poles

WS2704193894 Vilnius ELTA in English 1742 GMT 27 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 486]

[Text] Vilnius, April 27, ELTA—Polish President Lech Walesa by the end of his visit to Lithuania met with representatives of the Polish community in Lithuania.

According to the statistical data, at present 261.5 thousand Poles live in Lithuania.

"Despite a great number of obstacles you have not lost your nationality", Walesa said. "You still belong to a large Polish family. You never reached outside the border, the border stretched over you. You are not here guests or newcomers or emigrants".

Walesa emphasized that Poles in Lithuania are citizens of Lithuania. "Lithuania is your country. The prosperity of Lithuania is your prosperity. You must be good citizens. You must care about your homeland and participate in the changes. You must show that you can usefully and creatively work for Lithuania in building the common home for both Lithuanians and Poles".

Poles who live in Lithuania should be loyal for the state and respect its institutions. The state in its turn should guarantee the ability to foster national identity, culture, education and language.

Disagreements With Russia Center on Kaliningrad

PM2604143794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 26 Apr 94 p 3

[Sergey Balyutskiy report under the "Neighbors" rubric: "'Stones' on Borders. A Cooling Has Become Apparent in Lithuanian-Russian Relations"]

[Text] Vilnius—Relations between Vilnius and Moscow, which only recently were almost a model of good-neighborliness, have started to cool appreciably of late. At a routine briefing A. Slezevicius, the republic's prime minister, voiced regret that several of his letters to V. Chernomyrdin, leader of the Russian Government, have gone unanswered. Moreover, according to the premier, Russian economic policy in respect of Lithuania is becoming increasingly aggressive.

All this has obliged A. Brazauskas, president of the republic, to send his own message to Boris Yeltsin. Lithuanian-Russian relations were also discussed at a session of the Coordinating Council on Foreign Policy. The decisions adopted there were evidently quite serious, since the Lithuanian head of government declared that "Lithuania will take appropriate measures if Russia does not alter its decision regulating exports and imports. One of these measures could be to restrict the transit of electricity to Kaliningrad Oblast."

What has prompted Lithuania's leaders not only to "avoid kisses" but even to threaten to "throw stones"? In the opinion of certain Russian Embassy staffers in Lithuania—an opinion which coincides, incidentally, with that of the republic government's apparatus staffers—the stumbling block is Kaliningrad Oblast, the

Russian enclave on the Baltic coast. In signing the treaty on trade and economic cooperation back in November last year, the Russian premier stipulated, in exchange for most-favored-nation status in trade, a number of measures providing for Kaliningrad Oblast's life-support system to be facilitated. It was a question, in particular, of simplifying the fiscal-customs regulations on the border of Lithuania and of preferential transit across its territory for Russian freight. Today, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes, nothing real has been done in this area. Moreover, the Lithuanian side does not conceal its reluctance to reach agreement on organizing Russian military transit on the basis of a bilateral agreement, intending to define its regulations only in internal documents.

The two states' diplomats are also failing to find a common language in questions of delimiting the border.

"Unfortunately, it has not been possible to reach any compromises," Deputy Foreign Minister V. Domarkas declared after returning from the latest round of talks on this question. The sea border is the stumbling block. In the Russian side's opinion, Lithuania is proposing a solution which runs counter to the UN Law of the Sea Convention. The Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs takes a different stand: Various international documents propose different methods for determining the position of a sea border, he believes, and the contracting parties single out paragraphs which are advantageous to themselves.

It can be assumed that the diametrically opposite interpretation of international documents is mainly influenced not by the sides' competence or even by the experience of the participants in the talks. The main reason is the perfectly understandable desire to gain possession of the quite significant oil fields located on disputed regions of the seabed. In our restless times people do not reach agreement quickly where there is a smell of oil....